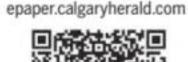
'FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG'

Nenshi criticizes feds' energy policy A4

LIBERALS TAKE A HIT

Byelection loss in Quebec NP1

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 PROUDLY CALGARY SINCE 1883 POSTMEDIA

SMITH OPENS UP THE PUBLIC PURSE

Premier banks on surplus in promising billions to address the school shortage

DON BRAID

Premier Danielle Smith is uncorking the Alberta treasury for one of the biggest capital project announcements in Alberta's history.

The UCP will pump $8.6 billion over three years into the construction of new schools, aiming to provide 50,000 new student spaces over that time.

She hopes to create another 150,000 new spaces in the four years after that.

The current capital budget for schools is $2.1 billion over three years. The government now adds $6.5 billion in new money.

Smith holds the Trudeau Liberals responsible for the school shortages and much else.

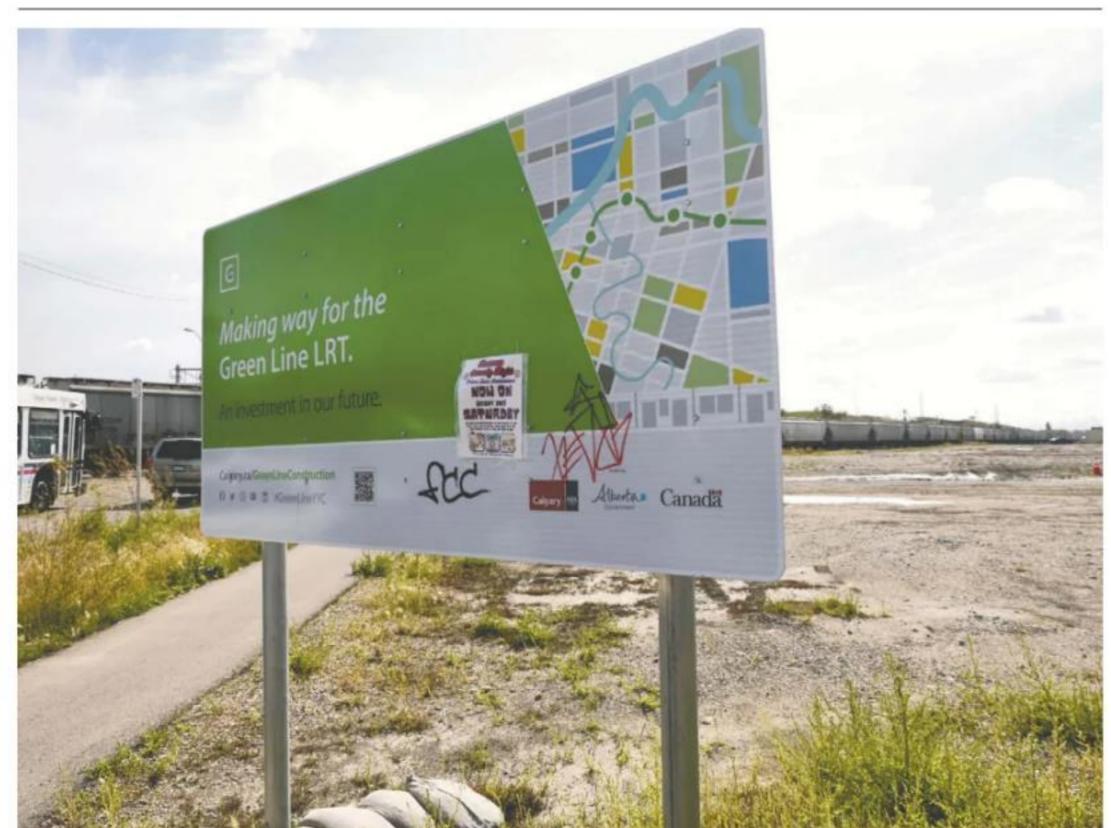
In a TV address to the province, she blamed the Liberals' immigration policy for straining services in Alberta and across the country.

"These historically high immigration levels — especially as it relates to those with temporary visas — is exacerbating shortages in housing, job opportunities for young people, as well as health, education and other social services ... So, I am joining with other premiers across our country in calling on the current federal government to immediately reintroduce sensible and restrained immigration policies, similar to levels we saw under Stephen Harper."

Hitting a cultural hot button, the premier said Alberta welcomes newcomers "who believe in working hard, protecting our freedoms, contributing to society, following the rule of law, and who have a deep respect for other cultures and faiths different from their own."

The Liberals have often allowed high immigration levels on the theory (and often the reality) that newcomers would vote for the party that welcomed them.

Current polls show no such benefit for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his party, but the high rate of immigration continues.

SEE BRAID ON A3

Abandoning the Green Line project will have financial and reputational effects on the city, says chief financial officer Carla Male. DARREN MAKOWICHUK

Winding down Green Line LRT project to cost at least $850 million, city says

SCOTT STRASSER

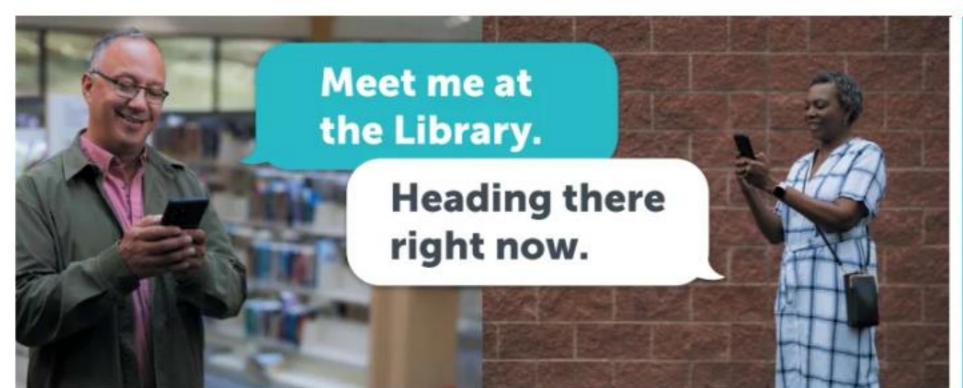
It will cost at least $850 million to wind down work on the Green Line, city officials confirmed Tuesday, adding up to a total price tag of nearly $2.2 billion in sunk costs — without building a single kilometre of track.

Council heard updates from both administration and the Green Line board on Tuesday, including reports on the financial implications of winding down the project and potentially transferring responsibility for it to the provincial government.

As of Aug. 31, expenses on the Green Line that have been either spent or committed totalled $1.6 billion, according to the city's chief financial officer Carla Male. Expenditures include engineering and design work, land acquisitions, demolitions, utility relocations and vehicle procurements, among other costs.

Abandoning the project will have financial and reputational effects on the city, according to Male, and will create a "domino effect" on various aspects of the city's operations, as well as its future financial statements.

SEE GREEN LINE ON A2

CITY + REGION

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WEATHER

Today: 21 C
Tonight: 7 C
Details: A12

Denise Geck, top left, Rajdeep Cheema, top right, Jose Cives, bottom left, and Sheri Warkentin, bottom right, received awards at the Calgary Police Service Chief's Awards Gala last Friday for their combined effort to save Lanny McDonald's life in February. PHOTOS: CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

'Literally not possible' for city to continue with LRT project

GREEN LINE FROM A1

The city has entered into dozens of contracts pertaining to the Green Line with external parties, and Male noted the city is obligated to pay those costs.

"In the ordinary course of a wind-down, various losses, claims and lawsuits may be brought against the city," she said. "City administration believes the settlement of these actions may result in material liabilities."

As a result, Male said the city will be attempting to be "made whole" for its wind-down costs, though she and other officials acknowledged the city cannot compel the province to provide that compensation.

Chief administrative officer David Duckworth told council the city cannot bear the risk of additional delays at this stage of the project, calling another pause to Green Line construction "simply untenable."

"It's literally not possible to continue on," he said.

The Green Line has faced an uncertain future for the past two weeks, since Transportation Minister Devin Dreeshen sent a letter to Mayor Jyoti Gondek and council on Sept. 3 that indicated the province would withhold its $1.53-billion funding contribution.

That letter came just over a month after council approved a shortened alignment for the line, while at the same time approving a $705-million budget increase that brought the project's price tag to $6.25 billion.

Dreeshen indicated the province will commission its own third-party review of the alignment, with that independent assessment to be released by the end of December.

On Monday, Dreeshen released a video on social media that criticized the city's management of the project throughout the past decade. He argued the city "failed to do any of the proper costing, engineering or planning" before coming up with the Green Line's original $4.5-billion price tag, suggesting the plan was "drawn up on a napkin."

"From an original lack of planning, the Green Line shrunk from 46 kilometres and 29 stations that Calgarians were promised almost 10 years ago, down to just 10 km and seven stations," Dreeshen said.

In a separate report to council Tuesday, Green Line project CEO Darshpreet Bhatti said about 1,000 people have been employed on the project, including 800 contractors and roughly 200 city employees.

Mayor Jyoti Gondek said it remains to be seen what the final wind-down costs will be and whether the province takes responsibility for terminating the funding agreement.

"We're the ones that entered into contracts, we're the ones who employed the thousand people who are working on this project right now," she said. "The liability (and) the risk lies entirely with us. I would hope the partner who ended this project will take accountability, responsibility for their share of the cost.

"We will see as we start getting into the wind-down process ... what happens with the contracts we have to somehow exit from. We'll see what kind of legal action is taken against us."

Ward 13 Coun. Dan McLean disputed Gondek's assertion that the Green Line is "dead." He thinks the project can be salvaged, and perhaps even improved upon, by the province.

"If it's not wound down, then there's no loss," McLean said. "This is not dead in my opinion. Council should be voting to just wait a few months to see what the province has to say, and then we'll make our mind up from there."

Late Tuesday afternoon, council considered a range of amendments, including an alternate motion from Ward 1 Coun. Sonya Sharp to reaffirm the city's commitment to the Green Line and work collaboratively with the province to deliver the project.

That was followed by a multi-part amendment from Ward 8 Coun. Courtney Walcott, who moved to include the wind-down costs in the city's mid-cycle budget adjustments and return to council by year's end with a legal opinion on how to transfer the project's costs and liabilities to the province.

According to the Green Line board, pausing work costs up to $30 million a month.

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Mayor Jyoti Gondek said Tuesday it remains to be seen what the final costs for winding down the Green Line project will be. DEAN PILLING

'I would have helped anyone'

Civilians, police officer honoured for saving Lanny McDonald's life

MACKENZIE RHODE

The Calgary Police Service recently honoured three civilians and one of their own for helping save Lanny McDonald's life, after the Flames legend experienced a cardiac event at the Calgary International Airport in February.

On Feb. 4, Rajdeep Cheema noticed McDonald experiencing a medical emergency, Calgary police said in a statement, and began performing CPR.

Two off-duty nurses, Sheri Warkentin and Denise Geck, were coming off an incoming flight when they noticed the event and took over performing CPR, allowing Cheema to locate a defibrillator.

Calgary police Const. Jose Cives assisted the life-saving efforts. Police say the four people spent approximately 15 minutes alternating between CPR and using the defibrillator before McDonald was stabilized and taken to hospital.

Warkentin and Geck are both nurses in Saskatchewan but didn't know each other before the incident. Warkentin said they didn't speak immediately after due to the "chaos," though the nurses were able to connect several months later through McDonald.

Warkentin said she was with her husband when they came around a corner in the airport and "things just looked weird."

They eventually noticed a man on the ground who appeared to be receiving CPR.

She remembers handing her bag to her husband and rushing to help. "My brain was going so fast," she said of that day.

Warkentin didn't know who she was helping until a police officer approached her later in the airport and told her it was McDonald.

"I would have helped anyone," she said.

Warkentin and the officer exchanged information, and he later nominated her, along with the two other civilians, for the Award of Exceptional Recognition for Life Saving at the Calgary Police Service Chief's Awards gala, which took place on Friday.

Cives spoke about the incident in a video posted to X by the Calgary Flames.

"There were many times when I thought that Lanny wasn't gonna make it through, but I wasn't gonna stop until I got some sort of a result," recalled Cives.

"He is a local hero," McDonald said of Cives in the same video.

The Flames legend made an effort to reach out to his rescuers once he was in good health and able to find their contact information.

McDonald, who attended the awards ceremony with his wife, Ardell, said in a statement to Postmedia through Calgary Flames spokesman Peter Hanlon that it was an honour to attend the event, and that he watched with pride as "my life savers Jose, Denise, Sheri and Rajdeep receive their awards."

"As the recipient of not only their excellent training, but of their selflessness and care, I cannot explain my gratitude for their brave actions."

He added that he and his wife were "humbled to sit in a room full of heroes, surrounded by first responders and citizens alike who have made a difference in so many lives."

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United Way launches fall fundraising campaign

MACKENZIE RHODE

United Way of Calgary and Area launched its fall fundraising campaign on Tuesday.

Organizers were at Stampede Park with food, music and games to bring awareness to recent and future fundraising efforts. Community leaders and donors were also in attendance.

Tuesday's kickoff follows a 10-day basic needs roundup put on by United Way alongside WINS (Women in Need Society), Next-Door, connectFirst Credit Union and other community partners. The citywide initiative provides resources to those struggling to afford basic needs, such as hygiene products, warm clothing, baby items and more.

Amid Calgary's affordability crisis, United Way of Calgary aims to "address short-term need and drive long-term change," according to the campaign kickoff event page.

September is United Way month in Calgary, with several events planned, targeting socioeconomic well-being, mental health, social inclusion and healthy relationships.

Canadian Music Day on Sept. 28 will feature emerging Canadian artists, special guests, contests and giveaways, with $1 from each ticket sold being donated to United Way to support local youth mental-health programs.

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Premier Danielle Smith on Tuesday evening announced a "one-time capital investment" of $8.6 billion in the province's school system. The plan will create 200,000 more student spaces and build as many as 30 new schools across the province. GAVIN YOUNG FILES

Province to spend $8.6 billion to build up to 30 new schools

Education minister says plan will help system meet rapid population growth

MATTHEW BLACK

EDMONTON The Alberta government says it will spend $8.6 billion over the next seven years to build as many as 30 new schools and create 200,000 more student spaces across the province.

Premier Danielle Smith announced the plan in a televised address on Tuesday evening, calling it a "one-time capital investment" in the province's school system.

The new construction accelerator program also calls for up to eight schools to be modernized or replaced every year for the next three years.

"This is quite literally the fastest and largest build our province can manage given available construction workforce capacity and the time it takes to permit, prepare and service available school sites," she said.

Up to 20,000 new student spaces will also be made available through modular classrooms over the next four years.

The program will begin through the next provincial budget in the first months of 2025.

The premier added a portion of the funding will be used for a parallel pilot project called the "charter school accelerator program" that the government says will add 12,500 new charter school student spaces over the coming four years.

Smith told Postmedia the province plans to cover the costs of the program by taking on debt via long-term loans.

It also plans to change the funding mechanism in several respects, primarily by owning the new schools outright and leasing them back to school boards. That would allow the province to list the new facilities as assets in its budget rather than the current practice of providing the boards with grants to build new facilities.

The program will also allow school projects to be approved at any point in the budget year, whereas now projects are typically only approved to progress from one stage of the construction process to the next at the start of a budget cycle.

"There is no time to lose in getting our school construction accelerator program off the ground right now," Smith said.

'INCREDIBLE PRESSURE ON OUR SCHOOL DIVISIONS'

Both the premier and Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides cited the province's recent rapid population growth as necessitating the push for school construction.

The province added a record 200,000 new Albertans last year, equating to a 4.4 per cent growth in population, by far the highest of any province.

Over the past decade, Alberta's population has grown from just over four million in 2014 to 4.8 million this year.

"That's putting some incredible pressure on our school divisions," Nicolaides said in an interview. "We are adding about 30,000 students a year and this plan will help us keep pace with that level of projected growth for the next few years."

He said the new schools will come in areas that have seen the biggest population growth, primarily Edmonton and Calgary, but also listed Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray.

He said the modernization part of the program will largely fall to smaller communities.

The "vast majority" of new schools will be in public, Catholic and francophone school systems, Nicolaides said.

'EAGER TO GET STARTED'

In her address, Smith called on school boards to work with municipalities on getting permits and sites prepared for construction work.

School boards will continue to submit their capital requirements to the province for evaluation. Projects begin in the planning stage, followed by the design stage and conclude with construction itself.

Nicolaides said there is no timeline for work to begin yet, but that the plan is for construction to begin promptly.

"It really depends on how quickly the sites are ready and how quickly the projects are ready, but we're eager to get started as quickly as possible," he said.

He said he's yet to receive feedback on the program from school boards, stating "we're just having those conversations now."

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Ottawa councillor shocked to learn he'd been named as Magliocca's dinner guest

KEVIN MARTIN

Ottawa city council member Tim Tierney testified Tuesday he found it "a little shocking" that he'd been listed as a guest of then-Calgary councillor Joe Magliocca on two occasions.

He told Crown prosecutor Aaron Rankin he wasn't even in Calgary on Oct. 10, 2018, when a receipt suggested he and Magliocca were together for a late meal at Hy's Steak House in Calgary.

"Your name is ... at the top of this page," Rankin said, showing Tierney a receipt for $152.

"Were you in Calgary on Oct. 10, 2018?" Rankin asked.

"No, I was not," Tierney said.

"There was video footage of me at Ottawa city council (that day)."

Tierny also said he was not at a June 4, 2018, dinner at a Halifax restaurant. A receipt for that meal names both Tierney and Halifax Mayor Mike Savage as beneficiaries of Magliocca's largesse.

"Were you eating ribs and chicken with Mr. Magliocca at the Baton Rouge?" Rankin asked.

"I absolutely was not," Tierny responded.

"Were you at this restaurant that evening?"

"No, I was not," Tierney said.

"Has Mr. Magliocca, Mayor Savage and yourself ever dined together?" Rankin asked.

"Absolutely not," Tierny said.

> *Absolutely not. It was a little shocking. I think I was in Calgary for the opening of the Central Library. That's the extent of my recollection.*

The prosecutor asked Tierney about his reaction to being shown the expense claims.

"It was a little shocking," the Ottawa council member said.

In cross-examination, defence counsel Aryan Sadat asked Tierney if he'd been to Calgary during 2018 or 2019.

"I think I was in Calgary for the opening of the Central Library," he said. "That's the extent of my recollection."

Joe Magliocca

Tierney also said he was only asked by police about specific dates.

Magliocca, 59, faces charges of fraud and breach of trust by a public officer.

Court also heard from former Edmonton mayor Don Iveson, who said he knew Magliocca from their time spent on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, as well as through other conferences.

But he told Rankin he couldn't "say I ever had a sit-down meeting with him."

Iveson said both he and Magliocca would have been at an FCM meeting in Quebec City in late May and early June 2019.

"On Saturday, June 1, did you have dinner or any meal with Mr. Magliocca?" the prosecutor inquired.

"No," Iveson said.

"That night I did see Mr. Magliocca, but it was at a reception hosted by Metro Vancouver when the food and beverage was provided by the host."

Rankin also asked Iveson about an FCM meeting in Laval, Que., in 2018.

Iveson said he was not at a meal with a large group of members from the organization on March 7, 2018, at P.F. Chang's restaurant for which Magliocca filed an expense, which included the former mayor's name handwritten on it.

"On that date I was playing host to delegates ... at a conference held in Edmonton."

Under cross-examination by Sadat, Iveson acknowledged that many gatherings wouldn't be documented in things such as email streams.

"Folks might fan out to have dinner as a group," he said.

The trial, set to go into next week, continues Wednesday.

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PROVINCE

Premier's goal worthy, but size of pledge is shocking

BRAID FROM A1

Today, these levels are simply unsustainable. They're even unfair to immigrants, who quickly face housing shortages, high rents, inflated prices, challenged health care and packed schools.

But immigration is by no means the sole cause of the school shortages. Provincial governments have lagged behind demand for at least two decades.

Complex rules often stall projects for years. Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides says the province will change a system that often means a school has to go through three annual budget cycles before it can be completed.

The premier's overall goal is worthy, but the size of this announcement is shocking.

There hasn't been anything remotely like it since July 8, 2008, when then-premier Ed Stelmach announced $4 billion in new money for carbon capture and storage, as well as green transit projects (Green Trip, he called it).

Stelmach was lured into this splurge by oil prices that were running above US$120 per barrel, the highest level ever.

Then the great world financial crisis hit. Within six months of his announcement, oil was selling for $40 per barrel. Alberta finances were in shambles for years thereafter.

Smith is taking the same kind of chance, largely because the province is expected to book a $2.9-billion surplus this year.

That estimate was based on an average oil price of $76 per barrel. On Tuesday, West Texas crude was running at about $71 per barrel.

Late last year, Smith and her finance minister, Nate Horner, were warning of looming deficits. They used the pretext to defer the income tax break they promised until 2027.

Smith now signals that she'll bring the tax break back, much sooner than 2027. That would cost the treasury another $1.4 billion that isn't in the current budget.

There's bound to be controversy over funding for public charter schools, and non-profit private schools as well.

Nicolaides says $600 million will be aimed at such schools over the three years, while the full public sector will get $8 billion. That hardly looks like a move to eliminate public education (although some in Smith's own party want exactly that).

Smith might just win her bet and solve the school shortage without throwing finances into more turmoil and debt.

But she is committing a shocking whack of cash.

Other struggling sectors, especially health care, will justifiably shout, "What about us?" while fiscal conservatives will say, "What the hell?"

Don Braid's column appears regularly in the Herald
X: @DonBraid

Nenshi targets feds' CO2 cap, guidelines on clean electricity

MATT SCACE

Naheed Nenshi delivers his first address to Calgary's business community as Alberta NDP leader Tuesday. He pledges a more stable environment for companies than under the current government. DARREN MAKOWICHUK

In his first address to Calgary's business community as Alberta NDP leader, Naheed Nenshi on Tuesday criticized several proposed federal energy and emissions-reduction policies while steering away from making firm policy commitments.

The former Calgary mayor also hedged on whether an Alberta NDP government would implement a consumer carbon price after his federal and B.C. New Democrat counterparts signalled over the past week that they no longer support the current version of the policy.

In a nearly 40-minute keynote address to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, Nenshi said an NDP-led government would provide a stable business environment and depicted the governing United Conservative Party as unpredictable, exemplified by its moratorium on renewable energy projects and decision to pull its funding portion from the Green Line.

Nenshi said he's been working with the energy industry on creating a submission to the federal government on Bill C-59, an anti-greenwashing provision that led some oil and gas companies to scrub their websites, citing confusion over the advertising standards being applied.

Nenshi said the federal government is "fundamentally wrong in what they're putting forward" and the provision is "against freedom of speech and expression."

The NDP leader also said he has issues with the Clean Electricity Regulations and proposed federal emissions cap. He said he would seek a compromise with the federal government, arguing the current provincial government takes a more antagonistic approach.

"We're going to have a big problem with that emissions cap in the fall simply because the (provincial) government has not made the case to the feds on an emissions cap that does work," Nenshi said.

Meanwhile, federal NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said last week he will oppose the federal government's current approach to consumer carbon pricing — an issue federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre has also fiercely criticized — saying he wants a policy that doesn't "put the burden on the backs of working people, where big polluters have to pay their fair share."

B.C. Premier David Eby also said last week that he would get rid of the province's consumer carbon price, colloquially known as the "carbon tax," should the federal government drop the policy.

Nenshi said he agrees with Eby's position that a final decision on the consumer carbon price is for the federal government. However, he said the province's decision will largely depend on the federal government of the day's overall climate plan, should the NDP be elected to power in the fall of 2027.

"In our case, three years from now, if we have a (federal) Conservative government, we have to look carefully at their emissions-reductions plans, see how they sync with Alberta's emissions-reductions plans, and make a plan based on that," he said.

"But given that the federal Conservatives haven't given us an inkling of what their climate plan is, it's very hard to say right now."

The federal government has two carbon pricing regimes: one aimed at individual consumers and the other for heavy industry. Provinces are free to create their own programs as long as they meet the federal government's criteria. Alberta has its own industrial carbon pricing regime called the Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction regulation, which imposes a gradually increasing price for carbon emissions above a certain level.

Consumers receive a carbon rebate every quarter to offset the cost.

On general matters of policy, Nenshi acknowledged his lack of specificity on items he will bring forward to the business community.

"The reason that I'm not being unbelievably specific about this right now is I've been out of the game for a couple years," he said. "My real goal is to hear from all of you about precisely what you mean and what kind of government would make sense for you."

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New cancer centre taking appointments ahead of opening

Operations at 'world-class facility' scheduled to begin at end of October

EVA FERGUSON

Calgary's long-awaited $1.4-billion cancer centre is set to open within weeks, with Alberta Health Services now booking appointments.

Alberta Health has announced operations at the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre, in the northeast corner of Foothills Medical Centre, will begin at the end of October.

Touted to offer world-class, tailor-made oncology treatment, as well as groundbreaking cancer research, the 186,000-square-metre facility is expected to be the largest hospital of its kind in Canada.

"This represents a key milestone as we prepare for the clinical opening of the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre," Health Minister Adriana LaGrange said in a prepared statement.

"We look forward to welcoming patients to this world-class facility where they will receive personalized treatments with exceptional care."

Officials with Alberta Health said patients with cancer care appointments booked on and after Oct. 25 will now have those appointments moved to the new facility.

Those affected will be notified of the location change through myAHS Connect, the patient communication portal, and by mail.

The centre will feature 160 in-patient beds and more than 9,200 sq. m of dedicated research space.

It will offer both in-patient and outpatient services through a multidisciplinary health system.

"After years of dedication and hard work, we are beyond excited to finally start transitioning our patients to Arthur Child," said Athana Mentzelopoulos, president and CEO of Alberta Health Services.

"This state-of-the-art space is a testament to the tireless efforts of everyone involved, especially our patients and family advisers, and we are honoured to welcome our patients."

But officials would not say what specific equipment will outfit the new centre, or how many staff will be working in the new centre.

While the existing Tom Baker Cancer Centre has 800 staff on site, the new centre is expected to require much more as staff work to transition patients and services to the new building.

> *This state-of-the-art space is a testament to the tireless efforts of everyone involved.*

Patient demand had outstripped the current Tom Baker Cancer Centre within three to four years of its opening, while many patient services have been scattered throughout the city.

Last year, the Own Cancer campaign, which is aiming to fundraise $250 million for the new cancer centre, had reached $177 million.

Now it is at $225 million, Alberta Health confirmed, with $5 million pledged earlier this year by ARC Resources Ltd., the campaign's largest corporate donation yet.

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Sheriffs to help city police track fugitives

Support team to complement work already being done by CPS, chief says

BILL KAUFMANN

The province is adding a team of sheriffs to help Calgary police track down fugitives in the city and across Alberta.

After what's being called a successful launch in Edmonton last February, the Fugitive Apprehension Sheriffs Support Team (FASST) is bringing a seven-member plainclothes squad to Calgary to hunt down offenders on the lam, with a focus on more serious crime, said Public Safety and Emergency Services Minister Mike Ellis.

It's the same size as the team operating in Edmonton and is backed by $2.6 million in provincial funding.

"Taking these individuals off the streets and putting them back into the courts demonstrates our government's commitment to making Alberta safer," Ellis said Tuesday.

"The number of arrests (has) risen steadily since those early days and we expect them to continue doing so in the months and years to come."

In the past seven months, FASST operating in Edmonton has executed more than 1,300 warrants leading to 303 arrests, 260 of those so-called Tier 1 suspected offenders such as those accused of first-degree murder and child sex crimes, he said.

"Adding more resources significantly reduces their likelihood of reoffending and continuing to victimize Albertans," said Ellis.

He said there are currently more than 82,000 active warrants throughout Alberta for people in breach of release conditions, failing to appear in court or violating their statutory parole.

The move is welcome, said Calgary police Chief Mark Neufeld, adding it'll complement the work already being done by city police.

"There are more than enough people to arrest in our communities ... this adds capacity," said Neufeld.

More co-operation and flexibility are always needed between law enforcement services, he said, given the mobile nature of criminals.

"Law enforcement has to be equally as nimble and agile to bring these people into custody," said Neufeld.

Not only are the suspected offenders being arrested by FASST dangerous, but they're also evading accountability, said Sheriffs Supt. Mike Letourneau.

"Its impact has been both quick and immense," he said.

Ellis also took a shot at the federal government's bail reform legislation, Bill C-75, that he says has compounded the problem of reoffenders.

"The federal government must implement serious bail reform to put a stop to Bill C-75. This bill has been a disaster for our communities ... has perpetuated a cycle of crime, and victimizes law-abiding citizens over and over," he said.

Mike Ellis, minister of public safety and emergency services, left, and Calgary police Chief Mark Neufeld unveil the creation of a Fugitive Apprehension Sheriffs Support Team (FASST) on Tuesday. "There are more than enough people to arrest in our communities," said the chief *BRENT CALVER*

ROLE OF SHERIFFS HAS EXPANDED

It's not the first time the province has deployed sheriffs in Calgary to combat crime and social disorder, and it hasn't always met with success.

The UCP government deployed the sheriffs to Calgary in late February 2023 to deter crime in the downtown, including on the transit system, amid continued concerns over safety and violence in the city. A nearly identical pilot was completed in Edmonton.

A five-page Calgary Police Service report, dated Aug. 14, 2023, found that despite increased public awareness of the sheriff program, there was not a "marked decrease" in social disorder that would typically be seen during increased enforcement and patrols.

When the 76 downtown businesses and residential agencies surveyed were asked why their perceptions of safety didn't change, several cited "ongoing open-air drug use, generalized social disorder and safety on transit." (Fifty-six per cent of respondents said their perception of safety didn't change during the pilot, but many said it wasn't long enough to have an effect and they would welcome future sheriff support.)

Last March, the province introduced legislation that laid the groundwork for a new police agency but continued to say at the time that no decision had been made on establishing a provincial police service to replace the RCMP.

In recent months, the government has progressively increased the number of sheriffs as well as the agency's role beyond its most typical duties of highway traffic enforcement and providing security at courthouses, the Alberta legislature grounds in Edmonton and the McDougall Centre in Calgary.

Alberta's 2023 budget provided $27.3 million in new funding for the agency, which was to be partly spent on hiring 245 new sheriffs.

With files from Kevin Martin, Matt Scace and Matthew Black

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OPINION

FOUNDED AUGUST 31, 1883

LORNE MOTLEY REGIONAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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It's time for Trudeau to read the tea leaves

TASHA KHEIRIDDIN

It's not me, it's you! If you're wondering why the Liberals lost this week's byelection in the supposedly safe seat of LaSalle—Émard—Verdun, just ask Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

"We need people to be more engaged. We need people to understand what's at stake in this upcoming election. Obviously, it would have been nicer to win and hold Verdun, but there's more work to do and we're going to stay focused on doing it."

The arrogance is breathtaking.

Actually, people fully understand what's at stake in the upcoming election. The LaSalle byelection was about Trudeau, the St. Paul's byelection was about Trudeau, and the general election will be about Trudeau.

Voters don't want four more years, or even two more years of him. It's been fun, please exit the ride now sir, your time is up.

Trudeau's hubris helped sink his party in LaSalle even before the race began. He handpicked his candidate, Laura Palestini, big-footing aspiring party nominees who were already working the riding, and who loudly complained about it.

Then 52 Liberal staffers refused to volunteer because of the Liberals' position on the Israel-Hamas War, and worse yet, sent a letter to Trudeau about it. Next, Trudeau's national campaign director quit and a Quebec MP publicly called for him to step down.

None of these things helps win votes.

Meanwhile, the Bloc Québécois benefited from the rise of Parti Québécois fortunes in the province. They also mined the newfound clout the Bloc has in Ottawa since NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh ripped up the party's supply-and-confidence agreement with the Liberals. Bloc Leader Yves François Blanchet promised to deliver for Quebec by holding the Liberals to ransom.

> *It appears that their 'woo the union vote' did not work on NDP voters in Winnipeg.*

That clout may have saved the day for the NDP in Elmwood—Transcona, however. There, the party was fighting the Conservatives for a seat held by two generations of Blaikies. The Tories' aggressive "sellout Singh" ads prompted the NDP leader to cut the cord with the Liberals to put some daylight between him and the government, and it worked — the NDP vote held, dropping only 1.6 per cent from 2021.

Which brings us to the other important story in these byelections: just which voters switched, and to whom?

The answer lies in part with the collapse of two other parties: the People's Party of Canada and the Green party.

In 2021 both parties took just over three per cent of the vote in LaSalle. In 2024, their scores plummeted to 0.5 per cent and 1.8 per cent votes, respectively. In Elmwood—Transcona, the PPC won 5.82 per cent, the Greens 1.62 per cent in 2021. This time, they got 1.2 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively.

Where did those votes go? In the absence of an exit poll, the numbers hold a clue. In LaSalle, the Conservative vote grew from 7.45 per cent to 11.8 per cent, equal to the PPC's loss plus a smattering of other voters. In Elmwood, the Conservatives made a gain of 15.9 per cent while the Liberals dropped by 9.9 per cent and the PPC fell by 4.6 per cent.

What does this mean for the Tories? It appears that their "woo the union vote" did not work on NDP voters in Winnipeg. Instead, they cannibalized the Liberals and won the PPC vote both there and in Quebec. While there is limited PPC vote left to pull nationally, there is plenty of fertile ground still in the Liberal camp.

What does this mean for the Liberals? It means that unless Trudeau quits, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre will become prime minister.

For three elections, the Liberal brand has been synonymous with Trudeau. Canadians have soured on the PM and unless he reads the tea leaves, he will take his party with him. It's not clear who could right the sinking ship, or who would want to, but the iceberg is looming, Celine Dion is singing, and the race to the lifeboats has begun.

Tasha Kheiriddin is Postmedia's national politics columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Photo radar is a safety measure

Re: Danielle Smith UCP on the road to slashing Alberta photo radar, Opinion, June 7

So, the UCP views photo radar as nothing more than a cash cow for municipal police services and the provincial government may change the rules to protect drivers from traffic tickets.

As of December 2019, the province informed municipalities and police services they could not add new photo radar locations, upgrade or install new equipment. At the same time, the government also increased the province's share of photo-radar revenue across 26 municipalities, to 40 per cent from 27 per cent.

This revenue loss will mean I will have to pay increased municipal taxes to maintain service levels. I question the wisdom of the Alberta transportation minister announcing all photo-radar sites will be banned from ring roads in both Calgary and Edmonton starting in December. Perhaps speed-limit signs should be removed, too. I live near a ring road and can understand why traffic enforcement on these highways can generate significant revenue. I've regularly witnessed drivers, herds of motorcycles, exotic sports cars, and powerful diesel trucks all travelling at speeds well above the posted limit. No wonder the province increased its share of the honey pot revenue by 13 per cent.

I support the position of Alberta municipalities and Alberta police organizations and their justifications for continued and, hopefully, increased use of photo radar and intersection safety cameras to enforce traffic safety regulations.

Jeff Toffin, Calgary

Nothing wrong with bill of rights

Don Braid writes that the bill of rights issued by Peter Lougheed "is just fine," and then lists six rights. He failed to mention there are actually seven rights in the current legislation. Maybe he thinks we will become neanderthals or the sky will start falling because of that seventh one, which states: the right of parents to make informed decisions respecting the education of their children.

I'm not shaking in my boots.

Jason New, Priddis

Praise for UCP transit policy

Creating a transit line through unpopulated areas is a fantastic idea. You can ride from one end of town to the other, enjoying the scenery without overcrowded trains. I absolutely love it. An empty transit to enjoy your trip — what's not to like? So to you, Danielle Smith, go, girl. I applaud you for this initiative; this is what smart leaders do. They lead with wisdom and, well, they are true leaders.

Jacek Wielebnowski, Calgary

Ontario shows way on gaming taxes

Columnist Rob Breakenridge rightly argues that Alberta can learn from the Ontario experience "when it comes to crafting ideal tax rates and regulations."

The Ontario model of regulating online gaming has resulted in a record number of formerly grey-market operators coming into compliance, created nearly 15,000 full-time jobs, boosted GDP by 2.7 billion and returned hundreds of millions to the provincial treasury. All while existing land-based casinos and the province's own iGaming offering also experienced record revenue increases.

However, results like this are only achievable in a competitive business environment like Ontario's, where the tax rate for operators on iGaming is 20 per cent, or lower. Higher than that and the economics of the industry will lead to a much poorer outcome for Alberta. Breakenridge writes that what's needed is "smart regulation." Alberta would be wise to consider Ontario's objectively proven smarts when establishing the tax rate.

Troy Ross, executive director, Canadian Online Gaming Association

Traffic in the Centre of the Universe is maddening

Toronto always wanted to be New York and, on its busy roads, it has succeeded

CATHERINE FORD

The next Calgary driver who complains about traffic congestion — Marda Loop comes to mind — needs to be forcibly deported to the Centre of the Universe.

Here in downtown Toronto, traffic is chaotic at a minimum. Granted, Canada's busiest and largest city (population 2.9 million, rising to 6.3 million in the Greater Toronto Area) insists traffic congestion is, in a word, "improving."

Maybe that hopeful statement comes as a hurtful response to Toronto having the distinction of being identified as having the worst traffic in North America. There is also the further embarrassment showing Toronto is exceeded only by London, England, and Dublin, Ireland, as the most congested city in the world. Add to that further news that commuters in Toronto and area will spend 63 hours per year idling in traffic.

If crawling cars and speeding e-scooters and bicycles all trying to get to the next traffic signal without encountering a surprise parade (which we did) counts as an improvement, maybe.

But a weekend visitor in downtown Toronto confronted with construction blockades, narrowed lanes and riders on bicycles and scooters darting in and out of traffic doesn't see it as much of anything to brag about. It's like the Wild West of dime novels, only east and with cars instead of horses.

It has been more than 40 years since I have had to regularly drive the Gardiner Expressway or clamber aboard the GO train and subway to get to a downtown office, which I shared with the late and legendary sports writer Jim Coleman. Maybe I'm biased. After all, even back then, the Don Valley Parkway was sarcastically referred to as the Don Valley parking lot.

What is surprising is that there have been "only" five cycling deaths on the city's crowded streets this year. If there are laws about the usage of roads — and there most certainly are — it looks as if nobody cares and/or nobody does anything.

Perhaps keeping the roads in Toronto safe and moving isn't a priority with city hall or maybe there is just so much rampant disregard that the city has thrown its proverbial hands in the air and shouted: "Let the carnage begin." It's sort of like Imperial Rome's bread and circuses. Give people food and spectacle, and they won't complain.

When I last lived in Toronto, jaywalking was a civic sport. Only the faint of heart went to the intersection or the nearest traffic light. Toronto has always wanted to be New York and, on its roads, it has succeeded.

I was stunned when I returned to Calgary to discover police would actually issue tickets for such behaviour, although the one time I was stopped after crossing in the middle of a busy street, all I got was a lecture about road safety. Another street safety lesson: If you are in Toronto and stop for a pedestrian, you will be car-horned until you go deaf. (Only a slight exaggeration.)

Michael Foran wrote This Is My Worst in 1955 with tongue firmly in cheek and jest in his heart. Two lines, a single poem, remains fixed in my memory: "Only God could make Toronto/Only God, indeed, would want to."

As an aside, there is a more personal problem in being in Toronto. My last name is Ford. Throughout the past few years, every trip to Toronto has resulted in raised eyebrows and probing questions, the sharpness of which depends on the political leanings of the person asking.

The answer always has been succinct: "No, I am not related to Ontario's premier." Pause for effect: "Or his late brother."

Catherine Ford is a regular columnist.

GARLIC GOOD FOR THE LONG HAUL

Did you know that you can store unpeeled heads of garlic for up to six months? The cooking staple is one of the more low-maintenance foods in your kitchen — but only if you store it properly.

"Garlic should be stored in a cool, dry spot out of direct sunlight," according to the Better Homes & Gardens website. "A temperature of around 60 to 65 F (15.5 to 18 C) is ideal, but avoid storing whole garlic in the refrigerator, as the colder temperature can stimulate growth."

You'll also want to ensure there's good airflow, otherwise garlic will rot more quickly. Swap out plastic bags and sealed containers for a mesh bag, garlic keeper or wire basket. Then, when you need to use the garlic, remove only the cloves you need. Separated cloves don't stay fresh for as long as intact ones.

Melissa Hank

CAPTURING A 'CULINARY REVOLUTION'

Duo goes beyond writing cookbook to look at history of 'modern Korea'

LAURA BREHAUT

In 2012, years before Squid Game became Netflix's most-watched show of all time, K-pop became a global phenomenon and Atomix placed higher in the World's 50 Best Restaurants list than any other spot in North America, co-authors chef Deuki Hong and writer and editor Matt Rodbard started documenting a "culinary revolution."

For their first cookbook, Koreatown (Clarkson Potter, 2016), Hong and Rodbard travelled to Los Angeles, Atlanta and New York, interviewing more than 100 Korean American chefs and business owners. In their followup, Koreaworld (Clarkson Potter, 2024), they document the evolution and excitement that's been mounting ever since — both in Korea and the United States.

"The whole journey from 2012 to now has seen such an immense change," says Rodbard, founding editor of Taste magazine. "The IQ of the diners has just elevated so greatly, and the appreciation for foods beyond the traditional Korean barbecue. That's been a big point of our book — both of our books, to be honest. We wanted them to think about Korean food beyond the tropes that most Americans and other readers know."

Their "baby mission" with their first book was to inspire more people to embrace their local Koreatowns, says Hong, the chef-owner of the Sunday Family Hospitality Group in San Francisco. Twelve years later, awareness has changed. "A lot of people, and blessfully so, have some touch point — however little, however big — of something Korean, whether that's the food, the culture, the arts. So we got to have a more nuanced conversation about not just Korean food but regional Korean food. And not just about K-pop, but also some artists. So, really diving in. I like to say the difference is that we got to go deeper this time around, and that's always a privilege."

Hong and Rodbard had hoped to extend their research north of the border to Toronto and Vancouver for Koreaworld, but pandemic travel restrictions thwarted their plans. Even so, they broke unprecedented ground. The book is the first of its kind in English to delve into the food of "modern Korea" — the ever-changing vibrancy of

Seoul with regional spotlights on Jeolla-do's Buddhist temple cuisine in the southwest, the subtropical specialties of Jeju Island, "the Hawaii of Korea," such as black pork and tangerines, and the mountain food of Gangwon-do in the northeast — as well as "the new Koreatown" in the U.S.

Many assume that South Korea, with its population of more than 50 million people, is much larger geographically, says Rodbard. It's roughly the size of the state of Indiana, with an outsized global impact. The excitement around the cuisine is exploding on both sides of the border as flavours and ingredients ride the Korean Wave (Hallyu), popping up in supermarkets and on restaurant menus, regardless of the style of food.

During the pandemic, as Rodbard was wrapping up work on Food IQ (Harper, 2022), which he wrote with chef Daniel Holzman, he and Hong started talking about the trends they noticed. "We soon realized that this book was natural to write because it was framed and centred around the modern Korean diaspora and modern Korean times. And we felt it was the biggest story in food." Their first order of business was to travel to Korea, which proved to be a challenge during the pandemic.

Photographer Alex Lau travelled with them on several trips over two years, capturing the book's images in situ, shooting many of the recipes with the dish's creator. "It's a book not just about the culture, but the people. And we wanted people to be in the book," says Rodbard. "This book is not just a cookbook but a real documentary project. It's a cultural history of modern Korea. And to us, that was the most exciting way to do the book."

Recipes reprinted with permission from Koreaworld: A Cookbook (Clarkson Potter).

Koreaworld co-authors Deuki Hong and Matt Rodbard say their bottom-of-the-pot butter juk "is a dead-simple way to clean up a bowl of soup or stew and create an entire second meal in the process." *PHOTOS: ALEX LAU*

BOTTOM-OF-THE-POT BUTTER JUK

Serves: 2-4

- *4 cups (1 L) anchovy stock or other flavourful stock (see note)*
- *1 cup (250 mL) cooked white rice*
- *1 egg*
- *2 tbsp (30 mL) unsalted butter, cubed*
- *Two or three 6-inch (15-cm) squares roasted nori seaweed (kim), cut into ribbons*
- *Grated zest of 1 lemon*
- *Kosher salt and ground black pepper*
- *Salmon roe, caviar, Dungeness crabmeat and/or sliced raw scallops, for garnish (optional)*

1. In a medium saucepan, heat 1 cup (250 mL) of the stock over medium heat.

2. Add the rice and egg and stir together with the stock until fully incorporated but the egg is not scrambled.

3. Add the butter and stir as it slowly melts, to emulsify.

4. Turn up the heat to high and slowly add the remaining stock, 1 cup (250 mL) at a time, while constantly stirring (risotto style), until most, if not all, of the stock is used.

5. The result should be a porridge-like consistency with a slightly thickened texture from the egg and butter.

6. Season with the seaweed, lemon zest, and salt and pepper. Garnish with one or more of the luxurious toppers if you like and serve.

Note: This dish was originally developed to be the final course of a hot pot meal; in that scenario, you would strain the flavourful broth from the hot pot at the end of a meal and use that liquid. Feel free to add more liquid to equal 4 cups (1 L) or just have a thicker dish if you have less broth.

Koreatown co-authors Deuki Hong, left, and Matt Rodbard have taken an even deeper dive into the culture with their followup book, Koreaworld.

BINDAETTEOK, BACON AND EGGS

Makes: 8-10 pancakes

- *2 cups (500 mL) dried split mung beans*
- *1 cup (250 mL) drained cabbage kimchee, chopped*
- *1 tbsp (15 mL) sesame oil, plus more for drizzling*
- *1 tbsp (15 mL) soy sauce*
- *1 tsp (5 mL) doenjang (soybean paste)*
- *1/4 tsp (1 mL) kosher salt*
- *1/2 cup (125 mL) water*
- *Neutral cooking oil, for cooking*
- *4 eggs*
- *6 to 10 slices bacon or sausage links*

1. Rinse the mung beans well, then transfer to a medium bowl, add water to cover, and let soak for 2-3 hours. Drain.

2. In a large bowl, combine the kimchee, sesame oil, soy sauce, doenjang and salt, and mix well. Set aside.

3. In a food processor, combine the mung beans and water, and process until you have a mealy, sand-like consistency. Add the mung bean mixture to the kimchee mixture and mix well to form a batter.

4. To make the pancakes, place a medium skillet over medium-high heat and heat 3 tbsp (45 mL or more) neutral oil until it shimmers. Ladle two silver-dollar-size pancakes into the pan, spacing them well apart, and cook, turning once and adding more oil to the pan for additional crispiness, until golden on both sides, 2-3 minutes on each side. Transfer to a plate and keep warm. Repeat with the remaining batter, adding more oil to the pan as needed.

5. While the pancakes are cooking, cook the bacon and eggs in your most relaxed way. Scrambled works and may be easiest if you're also on pancake duty, but sunny-side up is great.

6. When everything is ready, drizzle a little sesame oil on the pancakes, and serve immediately.

BITES OF FUN

Sauté gnocchi to transform them into a crispy, pillowy, tasty dinner

AARON HUTCHERSON

Flavour is paramount to our enjoyment of a dish, but texture is not far behind. Chewy bucatini adds an element of fun to a simple pasta dish with zucchini and sausage, the crunch of a perfectly cooked french fry that yields to a fluffy interior fills me with excitement. A dish's texture can be the cherry on top of its taste.

There is added flair when an ingredient is used in an unexpected way. In this instance, we're taking pillowy dumplings and giving them crisp outsides with a touch of chew. Simply grab store-bought gnocchi and sauté them in a skillet and you'll be delighted with the results.

Crisping store-bought gnocchi instead of boiling them is an easy change with outsized results that deserves to be shouted from the rooftops. I suggest folding them into a fresh, eggplant and tomato sauce for a weeknight-friendly meal. Though it's not required, sometimes I like peeling eggplant so that texturally it can sort of melt into the background, and you're just left with the vegetable's mild, sweet flavour.

The eggplant goes into an oiled skillet with onion until it starts to pick up some colour. If you've cooked eggplant on a stove before, you've witnessed firsthand how much it acts like a sponge soaking up oil. This is where I'd like to encourage you to not fear fat. I'm not saying you should have the cubes of eggplant bathing in a pool of oil, but if the pan looks particularly dry, an extra tablespoon or two of fat as needed can lead to better browning and thus more flavour.

Next, cherry or grape tomatoes, garlic, and water are added, and the tomatoes are cooked until they start to soften and burst. To encourage them along, use the back of a wooden spoon to gently smash them to form a rustic sauce to which fresh basil and the sautéed gnocchi get folded in at the last second.

This dish is best eaten immediately, with a shower of Parmesan cheese for good measure, so you can enjoy the fleeting nature of the crisp gnocchi's texture that gives each bowl its extra bit of flair. That's the thing about the crispy, crunchy, gooey and the like: They're often ephemeral, so take this as a reminder to seize the moment before it fades away.

The Washington Post

Skillet gnocchi is not only a tasty dinner, but an easy weeknight recipe. *REY LOPEZ/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST*

SKILLET GNOCCHI WITH EGGPLANT-TOMATO SAUCE

Serves: 3-4 (makes about 5 cups/1.25 L)

- *4 tbsp (60 mL) extra-virgin olive oil, divided, plus more as needed*
- *1 lb (454 g) shelf-stable potato gnocchi*
- *1 medium eggplant (14 oz/396 g), peeled (if desired) and cut into 1/2-inch (1.25-cm) cubes*
- *1 small yellow onion (5 oz/142 g), diced*
- *1/4 tsp (1 mL) fine salt, plus more to taste*
- *1/4 tsp (1 mL) freshly ground black pepper, plus more to taste*
- *1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes (10 oz/284 g)*
- *2 garlic cloves, minced or finely grated*
- *1/2 cup (125 mL) water*
- *1/4 cup (60 mL) loosely packed torn fresh basil leaves, plus more for serving*
- *Freshly grated Parmesan cheese, for serving*

1. In a large (12-inch/30.5-cm) non-stick skillet over medium-high heat, heat 2 tbsp (30 mL) of the oil until shimmering. Add the gnocchi, breaking apart any pieces that are stuck together, and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden and browned in spots, 3-4 minutes. Transfer to a plate or bowl.

2. Add the remaining 2 tbsp (30 mL) of oil to the skillet, along with the eggplant, onion, salt and pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally and adding more oil if the skillet looks dry, until the eggplant and onion start to brown, 3-4 minutes. Add the tomatoes, garlic and water, and bring to a simmer. Cook, adjusting the heat as needed to maintain a gentle simmer, until the tomatoes start to soften and burst, 5-7 minutes, using the back of a wooden spoon to gently smash them.

3. Add the sautéed gnocchi and basil, and stir to combine. Remove from the heat. Taste, and season with more salt and pepper, as desired. Spoon the gnocchi mixture into bowls, top with Parmesan and more basil, and serve immediately.

THE SCOOP

Canadian among Booker finalists

Toronto-born Anne Michaels is among six finalists shortlisted for the Booker Prize for fiction this year, organizers said Monday. Michaels is recognized for her novel Held, a multi-generational narrative that weaves together historical figures and events. The others vying for the 50,000-pound (C$89,500) prize are American writers Percival Everett (for James) and Rachel Kushner (for Creation Lake), Britain's Samantha Harvey (for Orbital), Australia's Charlotte Wood (for Stone Yard Devotional) and the Netherlands' Yael van der Wouden (for The Safekeep). The winner will be named Nov. 12. Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize celebrates the best fiction and is open to novels from any country published in the U.K. and Ireland.

Cameron explains post-Avatar plan

James Cameron has a non-Avatar project lined up. The director is working on the next three films in the sci-fi franchise, but he'll also helm a movie that draws on Charles Pellegrino's 2015 novel, The Last Train from Hiroshima, and the author's upcoming book, Ghosts of Hiroshima. The film incorporates the true Second World War story of a Japanese man who survived the atomic blast at Hiroshima, got on a train to Nagasaki, and then survived the nuclear explosion in that city. "It's a subject that I've wanted to do a film about, that I've been wrestling with how to do it, over the years," Cameron told Deadline. "I met Tsutomu Yamaguchi, a survivor of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, just days before he died. He was in the hospital. He was handing the baton of his personal story to us, so I have to do it." Ghosts of Hiroshima will be released in August 2025.

GARFIELD

BIG NATE

PEANUTS

BABY BLUES

PICKLES

CRABGRASS

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

ROSE IS ROSE

OFF THE MARK

THE ARGYLE SWEATER

CORNERED

"You're right, Doc. At this stage it's a quality-of-life issue. An inheritance sure would help."

LOOSE PARTS

I didn't even know there was a game called Rock, Paper, Scissors, Thermonuclear Weapon.

ADAM@HOME

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

LUANN

POOCH CAFE

CRANKSHAFT

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

LIO

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

Semifinals by Paul Leistra, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS
1 What Blue Jays often have on their heads
5 Volcano output
9 Fishhook projections
14 Orchestra woodwind
15 Word with "history" or "exam"
16 Hard to miss
17 "Who's on First?" comic (In this answer, note the first 2 letters + the last 2)
19 Interior style
20 Requirement
21 Be nosy
23 34th prez
24 Puccini opera
27 Chimney buildup
28 Golf prop
29 Part of a mortgage check (... first 3 letters + the last 3)
33 Poseidon's domain
34 Letters before an alias
35 EMT's skill
36 Benefit from nepotism, perhaps (... first 2 letters + the last 2)
42 Church bench
43 Female sheep
44 Female deer
46 Where team teaching may occur (... first 2 letters + the last 2)
52 Hesitant sounds
53 Cosmetics brand
54 Greek resort island
55 Author Harper ___
56 The "A" of IPA
57 Digital diary
59 Reversed the effect of
61 Hair problems ... or a theme hint
66 Peace pact
67 "Yeah, right"
68 Rod's partner
69 Promoted extravagantly
70 Ready for eating
71 Samsung rival

DOWN
1 Corn holder
2 ___ Dhabi
3 Pea holder
4 Attempt to bring up the passed?
5 Ear part
6 Yank who retired in 2016
7 Tub
8 Indie rock relative
9 Lovable figure
10 Blvd. relative
11 Say, as the Apostles' Creed
12 Splintered
13 Yonge ___ (main road in Toronto)
18 Yellowstone predator
22 Extermination targets, familiarly
24 "___ the season ..."
25 Loonies replaced them in Canada
26 Standard dev. or avg.
27 Majestic
30 Have a balanced diet
31 Genre for the Specials or the Maytals
32 Actor who said, "I pity the fool"
37 Police alert, for short
38 Inserted more Nerf darts
39 Defunct airline
40 Stench
41 Disappearing word
45 Ostrich cousin
46 Minnesota city by Lake Superior
47 Writer with a short story award named for him
48 Depleted
49 Kind of salad
50 Edinburgh native
51 "Mister ___ Neighborhood"
57 Dot on a radar screen
58 Larger-than-___
60 Freezer cubes
62 Greek letter that resembles a trident
63 Prefix with "natal"
64 Lair
65 Tricksy

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

REAL ESTATE FEES — Solution: 7 letters

N C S Y T N A R R A W R A L A
O O N S C F I X T U R E T A D
I T I E E T R U O C O S T V V
T T E S P R L E E T E E O O E
C A S O S O D T P I S T R R R
U G N D N I A D D O I I N P T
R E E N I L M R A N R S E P I
T L C O U E A M U T H T Y A S
S A I C S Y D L O S O I S I E
N S L U K N Y L E C M S G T R
O A O C T A X E S A E N N A E
C H A T T E L S N S S E T K D
A B V E N D O R S O G E G E A
S R E Y W A L O F A M I L Y E
H T E N D E R E A L T O R S L

 9/18

Address, Advertise, Agent, Approval, Assessor, Attorney, Auction, Backyard, Calculate, Cash, Chattels, Commission, Condo, Construction, Cost, Cottage, Court, Family, Fixture, Home, House, Inspect, Keys, Lawyers, Leader, Lease, License, Money, Open, Rate, Realtor, Report, Reset, Rise, Sale, Sell, Signs, Sold, Taxes, Tender, Unit, Vendors, Warranty

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	4				7		2	
8			4				7	6
		1		6				
6				3	4	2		8
				8				
5		3	2	7				4
				4		3		
3	5				1			2
	9		7				8	

9/18

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 Beethoven and Chopin (8)	______
2 stopping up the drain (8)	______
3 guided excursions (5)	______
4 "Born in the USA" rocker (11)	______
5 dissolved a union (8)	______
6 Las Vegas' state (6)	______
7 seating at the park (7)	______

EEN	TOU	STS	PI	OGG
ANI	IN	BE	RS	DIV
ING	ORC	GST	CL	NEV
ED	ES	ADA	NCH	SPR

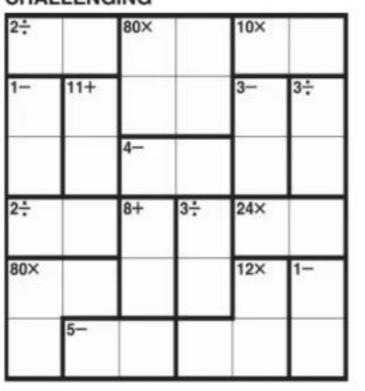
Answers: 1. PIANISTS 2. CLOGGING 3. TOURS 4. SPRINGSTEEN 5. DIVORCED 6. NEVADA 7. BENCHES 9/18

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

Instructions: Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

EASY

CHALLENGING

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"DY'M NIPF DAHJPYLWY YJ HPDJPDYDBI. D GWJX, UJP AI, AF ULADKF OJAIM UDPMY. YZLY ALGIM INIPF CIODMDJW NIPF ILMF." — RLCL HDWGIYY MADYZ

Solution: "It's very important to prioritize. I know, for me, my family comes first. That makes every decision very easy." — Jada Pinkett Smith

TODAY'S CLUE: X equals W

 9-18

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS:

WONDERWORD: LISTING

LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

HOROSCOPE FOR SEPTEMBER 18

BY EUGENIA LAST

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Evaluate your life, dreams, hopes and desires, and act accordingly. You are ready for change, but whatever you pursue must be well-thought-out and executed precisely.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refrain from falling into a trap set by someone looking for an argument. Channel your energy into home or self-improvement or sorting through clutter and clearing a path to a simpler, less complicated life. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do whatever is necessary to assess and figure out your next move. Travel, knowledge and experience are your best route forward. When in doubt, ask an expert to weigh in on your dilemma. A practical approach will offer reasonable solutions and peace of mind. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Rethink every choice you make to avoid an impractical decision. Someone will try to push you in a direction that is less sound for you than it is for them. Being a follower will infringe on your freedom. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore the possibilities and look for an opening that allows you to use your skills and broaden your prospects. A proactive approach to health and well-being will pay off. Handle your financial and medical issues yourself; research will guide you to asking experts the right questions. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Move things around and clear a space to house something you want to pursue. Broaden your horizons, make new connections and expand your awareness. Listen, learn and decipher what's best for you. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set high standards, cover your tracks and keep your plans and intentions to yourself. Don't allow uncertainty to show or put you in a vulnerable position. Be observant and cautious, and look out for your best interest; you'll achieve the desired outcome you want and the respect you deserve. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put solid plans in place before deciding to move. Knowing what you want is half the battle. Listen, learn and evaluate instead of following the crowd. Explore what makes you happy and pursue directions that help build confidence and a healthy lifestyle. Romance is favored. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Dig in and continue until you are satisfied with the results. Use your imagination and skills, and you'll be happy with what transpires. Don't waste time or energy worrying about things you cannot control. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An opportunity is only worthwhile if it helps you reach your goal. Don't sign up for something to please others when you need to put yourself first. Focus on self-improvement, personal growth, and looking and feeling your best. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take inventory. Follow your money trail and discover where it's gone and how to cut your overhead. Don't let emotions take over or lead you astray. Plan your actions and make the necessary changes, and it will ease stress and push you in a healthy direction. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pay attention to your schedule, routine and lifestyle. How you live and deal with your money, health and relationships will determine what unfolds and how others treat you. Be open to trying something new but do not be foolish regarding what you can afford. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pursue your dreams. Your discipline and hard work will pay off, encouraging you to trust and believe in your abilities. Refrain from letting outside influences make choices for you. Change begins with you. Own and control your actions and take responsibility for your happiness. 3 stars

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are cautious, timely and detailed. You are imaginative and curious.

TV TIMES TONIGHT - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

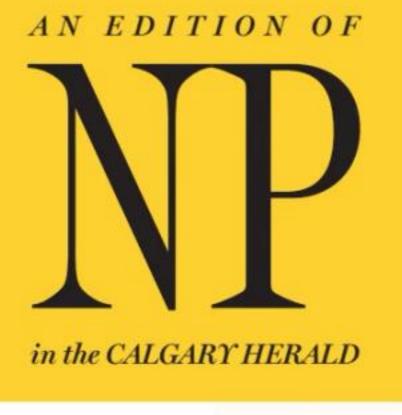
MOVIES TALK SPORTS KIDS

C	B		5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
3	4	CTV	News (N) Live	News (N)	CTV News Calgary at 6 (N) Live		etalk (N)	Big Bang	High Potential		MasterChef (N) (SF)				CTV (N)	News (N)
4	38	OMNI	Omni News (N)	City Focus	City Focus	Omni News	News (N)	Punjabi (N)	News (N)	Omni News	OMNI News (N)	Cantonese (N)	News (N)	Cantonese	News-Punjabi	Focus Punjabi
5		ABC	4 News Now on KXLY+ (N)		4 News Now (N)	World News (N)	4 News Now (N)	4 News Now (N)	Inside Ed. (N)	ET (N)	The Golden Bachelorette (N) (P)				High Potential	
6	9	CBC	Jamie's Quick	Jamie's Quick	News (N)	News (N)	Coronation (N)	Schitt's Creek	The Passionate Eye (N) (SP)				The National (N)		News (N)	Land and Sea
7	2	Global	News (N)	Global (N)	Global News Hour at 6 (N)		The Goldbergs	ET (N)	Big Brother (N)		Survivor Tribes tackle the first challenge of the season. (N) (SP)				Global News at 11 (N)	
8	5	CITY	Clarkson Gisele Bündchen (N)		CityNews at 6 Calgary (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Hudson & Rex		Hudson & Rex		Hudson & Rex		CityNews (N)	(:35) J.Kimmel (N)
9		CBC-F	(4:00) On va se (...	Silence (N)	TJ Alberta (N)	Téléjour. (N)	Stat (N)	L'épicerie (N)	Les enfants de la télé (N)		C'est comme (N)		Le téléjournal (N)		Sports (N)	On va se le dire
11		CMT	Cheers	Cheers	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Workaholics	Workaholics	Becker	Becker	Wings	Wings	The Office	The Office
12		CBS	KREM 2 News at 4 (N)		News (N)	CBS News (N)	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		Dateline		Survivor Tribes tackle the first challenge of the season. (N) (SP)				Big Brother (N)	
13		CTV2	Bob Heart	News (N)	Primetime (N)	How It's Made	Big Bang	etalk (N)	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	Suits		Primetime	(:35) J. Fallon (N)
14		PBS	Alma's Way	Xavier Riddle	America	Alice's	PBS News Hour (N)		Big Cats 24/7 (N) (P)				Secrets of the Dead		Animals With Cameras	
15		NN	Canada Tonight With Travis Dhanraj (N)				The National (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)	
16		NBC	NonStop (N)	NonStop (N)	NonStop (N)	NBC News (N)	Gubernatorial Debate		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel (N)	Chicago Med		Chicago Fire		Chicago P.D.	
17		TREE	PeppaPig	PeppaPig	(:15) Blaze	(:40) Thomas	Rubble	(:40) Binky	(:05) Franklin	PeppaPig	Bubble	(:45) Rivets	(:10) Ready,	Various	(:20) Max & Ruby	(:45) Blue
18		HGTV	House of Ali		Celebrity IOU		Gut Job (N)		Bargain Block (N)		Dream Home	Dream Home	Gut Job		Bargain Block	
20		YTV	(4:00) ★★ Daddy Day Care		Popularity	Popularity	★★ Daddy Day Care ('03) Jeff Garlin, Eddie Murphy.				Popularity	Popularity	Danger Force	Danger Force	SpongeBob	SpongeBob
21		TSN	(4:00) Sports (N)	MLS Soccer Columbus Crew at Toronto FC (N) Live				SportsCentre (N) Live		MLS Soccer Austin FC at Los Angeles FC From BMO Stadium in Los Angeles. (N) Live					SportsCentre (N) Live	
22		FOX	Two Half Men	Last Man	Modern Family	Big Bang	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	MasterChef (N) (SF)				News (N)	(:35) FamFeud
23		W	The Good Wife		The Good Doctor		Will & Grace	Mindy	Superstore	Superstore	★★ Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle ('03) Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz.					Mom
24		TLC	Dr. Pimple Popper		My 600-Lb. Life				My 600-Lb. Life William used to be mobile and fairly athletic.				My 600-Lb. Life			
25		FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games (N)		Halloween Baking Championship				Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games	
26		A&E	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam (N)	Court Cam (N)	Arrest (N)	Arrest (N)	(:05) Court Cam	(:35) Court Cam	(:05) Court Cam	(:35) Court Cam	(:05) Court Cam	(:35) Court Cam
27		SNW	Blue Jays in 30	Blue Jays (N)	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Texas Rangers From Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. (N) Live						Sportsnet (N)	MLB Baseball (N)		Plays Week	Sportsnet (N)	Sportsnet
28		CNN	Erin Burnett OutFront (N) Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (N) Live		The Source With (N) Live		CNN NewsNight (N) Live		Laura Coates Live (N) Live		Anderson Cooper 360		The Source With Kaitlan Collins	
30		SN360	WWE NXT				UFC Reloaded UFC 280: Oliveira vs. Makhachev						Dana White's Contender Series			
32		SHOW	NCIS		NCIS		Mr. Throwback	(:35) Mr Big	(:10) NCIS		(:05) NCIS		NCIS		NCIS	
33		SLCE	Neighbor	Neighbor	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Mama June: From Not to Hot		The Braxtons (N)		Daily Show (N)	(:45) After Midnight (N)		The Goldbergs	King	King
34		STZ2W	Movie	(:40) Perfect High ('15) Bella Thorne.			(:10) ★★ Letters to Juliet ('10) Amanda Seyfried.				★★ Fifty Shades of Grey ('15) Jamie Dornan, Dakota Johnson.				(:10) ★★ Fifty Shades Darker	
35		DISC	Mayday		Caught!	Caught!	Sin City Tow (N)		Highway Thru Hell		NUMB3RS		NUMB3RS		Caught!	Caught!
36		CTVDR	9-1-1		9-1-1		9-1-1		9-1-1		9-1-1		9-1-1		9-1-1	
37		OLN	Housewives/OC		Housewives/OC		Housewives SLC (N) (SP)		Housewives/OC		Housewives SLC		Housewives SLC		Housewives/OC	
38		TOON	Hotel/(:15) Total	Gumball	Teen/(:15) Teen	Teen/(:45) Teen	Teen/(:15) Teen	Teen/(:45) Teen	Looney/Looney	Scooby-Doo	Teen/(:15) Teen	Teen/(:45) Teen	Batman	Batman	Batman	Batman
39		FAM	Shasha & Milo	Ladybug	Jade Armor	TaraDunca	LEGO Dream	Boss Baby	Ladybug	Abominable	Family Matters	The Goldbergs	Degrassi	Life Derek	Degrassi	Degrassi
40		PCH	The Conners	The Conners	Sullivan's Crossing		Inside the NFL Week 2		Atlanta News First at 10pm (N)		Inside Ed. (N)	GMFB: Overtime (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Last Man
41		CTVCo	Friends	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	The Conners	The Conners	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang
42		TCM	(4:00) ★★★ White Heat ('49)		★★★ The Postman Always Rings Twice ('46) Lana Turner.				★★ Born to Kill ('47) Lawrence Tierney.			(:45) ★★★ Kings Row ('42) Ronald Reagan, Ann Sheridan.				
45		HIST	Pawn Stars		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	S.W.A.T.		How Disney Built America		Mega-Brands		Pawn Stars (N)		Holy Marvels-Quaid (N)	
46		CTVSci	Star Trek: The Next Generation		Star Trek: The Next Generation		Star Trek: The Next Generation		The Ark (N)		Castle		Castle		The Ark	
47		AMC	(3:30) ★★★ Twister ('96)		★★★★ Forrest Gump ('94) Robin Wright, Tom Hanks.						★★ The Replacements ('00) Gene Hackman, Keanu Reeves.					(:45) Dead
49		DTOUR	Ghost Adventures: House Calls		Border	Border	Mountain Monsters		Expedition Bigfoot		Paranormal Lockdown		Mountain Monsters		Expedition Bigfoot	
51	32	YESTV	The Middle	Mike & Molly	Murdoch Mysteries		Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Bull		Huntley	Huntley	Life Today	Hagee	Heartland	
65		TLN	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	David	Gino's Italian	Dream of Italy	Silvia's Italian	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Crazy Rich Agents		Dream of Italy	For the Love
119		MUCH	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Futurama	Dark Side of Comedy (N)		Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	The Simpsons	Futurama
120		MTV	How It's Made	How It's Made	The Challenge (N)			Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	The Challenge			Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness
122		VISN	Murder, She Wrote		Heartbeat		Peak Practice		New Tricks		Murdoch Mysteries		Columbo A gospel singer (Johnny Cash) kills his evangelist wife.			
126		TV5	Envoyé spécial (N)				En marge du monde		Tandem (N)		(:10) C dans l'air (N)		(:15) Afrique (N)	(:45) Journal (N)	(:15) Chassés-cr	(:40) Boutiques
127		APTN	(2:00) Channel No		Channel No Longer Available This channel is no longer available.								Channel No Longer Available This channel is no longer available.			

PAY-TV• WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

MOVIES TALK SPORTS KIDS

C		5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
54	E!	NUMB3RS		Million.	Million.	High Potential (N)		Bob Heart	Bob Heart	E! News (N)	TMZ	TMZ Live		High Potential	
55	CRVM1W	Movie	(:45) Villeneuve Pironi: Racing's Untold Tragedy ('22)				(:25) Monster Family ('17)			Don't Even	Don't Even	The Engineer ('23) Emile Hirsch.			Movie
56	CRVM2W	(4:20) ★★ Metal Shifters ('11)		(:55) How the Gringo Stole Chri...		(:20) Corner Gas	(:45) Corner Gas	(:10) Law & Order		The Americans	(:50) 15 Minutes of Shame			(:20) ★★★ One Night in Miami	
57	CRVM3W	Movie	(:45) ★★ Ice Quake ('10) Brendan Fehr.			(:20) ★★ Metal Shifters ('11) Chris Gauthier, Kavan Smith.				How the Gringo Stole Christm...		(:20) Corner Gas	(:45) Corner Gas	(:10) Law & Order	
58	HBO2	(:20) Polaris ('22) Muriel Dutil, Viva Lee.				(:55) Being Mary Tyler Moore ('23)				Murder on Middle Beach		Industry		Boardwalk Empire	
59	WSBK	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	WBZ News 8p (N)		News (N)	Patriots (N)	48 Hours		Flip Side (N)	Flip Side (N)	Big Bang	Housewife	Housewife	Person (N)
60	KTLA	KTLA 5 News at 4 (N)		KTLA 5 News at 5 (N)		News at 6 (N)	KTLA News (N)	News (N)	Unscripted	Sullivan's Crossing		Inside the NFL Week 2		News (N)	(:45) Sports (N)
61	WGN	WGN Evening News (N) Live		Sullivan's Crossing		Inside the NFL Week 2		WGN News at Nine (N) Live		News (N) Live	GN Sports (N)	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Two Half Men	Last Man
62	WPIX	Sports (N)	Big Bang	Sullivan's Crossing		Inside the NFL Week 2		PIX11 News at Ten (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Friends	Two Half Men	Big Bang	Young Sheldon
63	STARZ1W	(:20) ★★ The Outsiders ('83) C. Thomas Howell, Matt Dillon.				(:55) ★★★ Parenthood ('89) Mary Steenburgen, Steve Martin.				★★★ 22 Jump Street ('14) Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill.				(:55) Spartacus: Blood and Sand	
92	OWN	(4:00) Channel No Longer Available This channel is no longer available.						Channel No Longer Available This channel is no longer available.							
93	NGEO	Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero		Pirates-Legends (N)		OceanXplorers (N)		Life Below Zero		Pirates: Behind the Legends		OceanXplorers	
97	H2	Engineering-World		Adam Eats	Fast Hstry	Kennedy		Kennedy		Adam Eats	Fast Hstry	Kennedy		Kennedy	
98	MYS	NCIS: Los Angeles		JAG		NCIS: New Orleans		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		NCIS		NCIS	
101	MTIME	★★★ Panic Room ('02) Forest Whitaker, Jodie Foster.					★★★ Training Day ('01) Ethan Hawke, Denzel Washington.					★★★ Panic Room ('02) Forest Whitaker, Jodie Foster.			
102	ADSM	American Dad!	American Dad!	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	Rick and Morty	Rick and Morty	Chicken	Teenage	Family Guy	Family Guy
103	LIFE	See No Evil		NCIS: New Orleans		See No Evil (N)		New York Homicide (N)		S.W.A.T.		See No Evil		New York Homicide	
110	DOCU	Cool Daddy: The Kenny Colman Story			Stay Tooned	The History of Comedy		The History of Comedy		In Their Own Words		The History of Comedy		The History of Comedy	
115	FAMJR	Fabulous	CareBears	Smurfs/ Smurfs	GrizzyAnd	Mike/ Mike	BraveBun	Justin Time	Fabulous	Chip & Potato	Mike/ Mike	Mike/ Mike	(:40) Caillou	(:10) Caillou	(:40) Chip &
116	WILDB	American Ninja Warrior Junior		★★ Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over ('03) Antonio Banderas.				Afraid?	Goosebumps	Goosebumps	Cleopatra	Johnny Test	Johnny Test	The Deep	The Deep
117	ABCSP	The Fosters		8 Simple Rules	Man-Plan	Life in Pieces	Life in Pieces	Fresh-Boat	Fresh-Boat	The Fosters		Good Trouble		Last Man	Last Man
134	AP	Animal Cops: Houston		North Woods Law		Lone Star Law		Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet		The Vet Life		Lone Star Law		North Woods Law	
28	BBCW	Newsday	Business	Newsday	Business	BBC News	Business	BBC News	The Midwif	BBC News	HARDtalk	BBC News	Business	BBC News	Business
139	DJV	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Raymond	Raymond	Taxi	Taxi	Cheers	Cheers	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Mork & Mindy	Dear John	Taxi	Taxi
143	CNBC	Squawk Box Asia (N) Live				Street Signs Asia						Capital Connection (N) Live		Squawk Box Europe (N) Live	
144	GOLF	Road to the Presidents Cup (N)		PGA TOUR Classics		PGA TOUR Classics		PGA TOUR Classics		PGA TOUR Classics		PGA TOUR Classics		PGA TOUR Classics	
161	SCH	(4:30) What the Nanny Saw		Secrets of a Celebrity Nanny ('23)			What the Nanny Saw ('22) Laurie Fortier.			Secrets of a Celebrity Nanny ('23)			Shadowtown ('20) Brittany Bristow.		

NDP DEFEAT TORIES, HOLD WINNIPEG SEAT. NP2

A MAN ACCUSED OF DRUGGING HIS WIFE AND RECRUITING DOZENS OF MEN TO RAPE HER WHILE SHE WAS UNCONSCIOUS DELIVERED GRIM TESTIMONY ON TUESDAY. 'I AM A RAPIST,' HE SAID, 'LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN THIS ROOM.' PAGE NP3

HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS HIT BY PAGER EXPLOSIONS

LEBANON, SYRIA

Thousands hurt, 9 killed as new devices blow up

BASSEM MROUE

BEIRUT • More than 2,700 people were wounded and at least nine were killed, including members of Hezbollah terror group and an eight-year-old girl, across Lebanon and Syria Tuesday when their pagers exploded.

Approximately 200 Hezbollah members were in critical condition in 100 different hospitals, Beirut's health minister Firass Abiad announced about three hours after the explosions were first reported.

Officials pointed the finger at Israel in what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack.

Among those wounded was Iran's ambassador to Lebanon.

The mysterious incident came amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which have exchanged fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that sparked the war in Gaza.

The pagers that exploded had been newly acquired by Hezbollah after the group's leader ordered members to stop using cellphones, warning they could be tracked by Israeli intelligence.

A Hezbollah official told The Associated Press the pagers were a new brand the group had not used before.

On Tuesday, pagers started heating up and then exploding in the pockets and hands of those carrying them — particularly in a southern Beirut suburb and the Beqaa region of eastern Lebanon where Hezbollah has a strong presence, and in Damascus, Syria, where several Hezbollah members were wounded, Lebanese security officials and a Hezbollah official said.

The Hezbollah official spoke on condition of anonymity.

See PAGERS on NP3

SEAN KILPATRICK / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrives at Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday, the day after the Liberals lost their seat in a Montreal byelection.

Liberal stronghold falls in byelection

RYAN TUMILTY, CATHERINE LEVESQUE, and ANTOINE TREPANIER *in Ottawa*

TRUDEAU SAYS CANADIANS NEED TO BE 'MORE ENGAGED' AFTER NARROW LOSS TO BLOC IN MONTREAL AREA

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his cabinet insisted Tuesday that nothing needs to change, after his party lost yet another safe seat in a Montreal byelection.

"We need people to be more engaged. We need people to understand what's at stake in this upcoming election. Obviously, it would have been nicer to be able to — to win and hold Verdun — but there is more work to do and we're going to stay focused on doing it," Trudeau said before his cabinet met Tuesday morning.

The Liberals lost the Montreal riding of LaSalle—Émard—Verdun to the Bloc Québécois by just over 200 votes on Monday. The riding had been a Liberal stronghold, with the party winning it by more than 20 per cent of the vote in previous campaigns, when former justice minister David Lametti was the candidate.

Trudeau said Canadians need to fully understand the stakes of the next election and his party needs to do more work selling that message.

See ELECTION on NP2

African cull to kill hundreds of elephants amid severe drought

HARARE • Zimbabwe and Namibia have announced plans to slaughter hundreds of wild elephants and other animals to feed hunger-stricken residents amid severe drought conditions in the southern African countries.

Zimbabwe said it would allow the killing of 200 elephants so that their meat can be distributed among needy communities, while in Namibia the killing of more than 700 wild animals — including 83 elephants — is underway as part of a plan announced three weeks ago.

Tinashe Farawo, a spokesman for the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, said permits would be issued in needy communities to hunt elephants and that the agency also would kill some of the overall allotment of 200 animals.

"We will start culling as soon as we have finished issuing out permits," Farawo said.

The elephants will be taken from an area where the population has become unsustainable, Farawo said.

The hunting will take place in areas such as Hwange National Park in the country's arid west where there has been increasing competition between humans and wildlife for food and water as rising temperatures make the resources more scarce.

Hwange has more than 45,000 elephants, but now has the capacity to sustain only 15,000, Farawo said. The country's overall population of about 100,000 elephants is double what the country's national parks can sustain, park officials say.

Zimbabwe's Environment Minister Sithembiso Nyoni told Parliament last week that she had given the go-ahead for the culling program.

"Indeed Zimbabwe has more elephants than we need, more elephants than our forestry can accommodate," Nyoni said.

The Namibian government last month approved the culling of 723 animals, including 83 elephants, 30 hippos, 60 buffaloes, 50 impalas, 300 zebras and 100 elands, among others.

The Associated Press

AP FILES

A herd of elephants walks through Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park.

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CANADA

Bloc didn't take race for granted, leader says

ELECTION

Continued from NP1

"The big thing is to make sure that Canadians understand that the choice they get to make in the next election about the kind of country we are really matters, and that's the work we're going to continue to do," he said.

The loss comes just months after the Liberals lost a byelection in Toronto—St. Paul's, which was also considered a safe seat.

The prime minister's cabinet echoed his position that it was about engaging with Canadians and delivering more.

Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne said the moment called for his party to continue working.

"We need to be humble. Every time Canadians express themselves, we have to listen and be humble. I would say we need to redouble efforts as well to show that the Liberal team is the best team to deliver."

Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson said it was about showing Canadians the stakes.

"It's important that Canadians are reflecting on what the alternatives are. You can have Mr. Poilievre and his austerity and cuts and his denial of climate change, or you can continue on with the work that we are doing," he said.

Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal also suggested Canadians need to know what's at stake.

"The message I took is that we have a lot of work to do to get people to come out to the polls and vote, because the next election is going to be about what sort of Canada Canadians want."

Bloc Québécois' Louis-Philippe Sauvé becomes the party's 33rd MP in the House of Commons, putting the Liberals and the Bloc in a tie in Québec.

Sauvé said he is eager to get to work.

"I was confident that I could win through hard work, and yesterday evening's events proved me right," he said. "Our people have not had a member of Parliament for eight months, so we have to get to work!"

Bloc leader Yves-François Blanchet said his party never took the race for granted.

"Two months ago, a win would have been considered absolutely impossible.

"It was totally unpredictable and we had to contain expectations."

Blanchet said the byelection win doesn't change his thinking about a potential confidence vote.

He said the only way to prevent an election from happening "very, very soon" would be for Liberals to agree to hike the Old Age Security for people over the age of 65, something the Bloc has long been advocating for.

"Mr. Trudeau must not have had a pleasant night. I will let him do his analyses. My job is not to replace a Prime Minister Trudeau with a Prime Minister Poilievre who are in roughly the same place on the fundamental issues."

National Post

DAVID LIPNOWSKI / THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP candidate Leila Dance, centre, celebrates after being elected a member of Parliament representing Winnipeg's Elmwood—Transcona riding at the NDP celebration party on Monday night.

NDP beat Tories to hold seat in Winnipeg

BYELECTION

Stephanie Taylor

OTTAWA • The New Democrats' hope of holding onto an orange stronghold against the Conservatives in a federal byelection in Winnipeg has come true, with the Tory candidate conceding the race late Monday night after mounting a fierce campaign to flip the party stronghold blue.

With all 191 polls reporting shortly after 1:20 a.m. ET, the preliminary final results showed the NDP's Leila Dance winning in Elmwood—Transcona with around 48.1 per cent and the Conservatives' Colin Reynolds in second with 44 per cent. They were separated by a gap of 1,158 votes.

Just after 12:20 a.m. ET, Reynolds appeared before supporters to say the results were not what his campaign had hoped for, but that the party's faithful should be proud of the gains it made.

"We were the underdog in this and we made it a tight race," said Reynolds, a unionized electrician.

"I entered this election the same way I will leave it: a construction electrician, a proud member of IBEW 2085 and a proud Conservative."

The Liberals, who have not been historically competitive in the riding, were in a distant third with just 4.7 per cent of votes. The preliminary results show that to be a far cry from the 14.7 per cent it earned during the 2021 general election.

Monday's results showed the Conservatives increased its percentage of the vote to almost 44 per cent, compared to the 28 per cent from the last election, where the COVID-19 pandemic dominated as an issue.

The New Democrats were under pressure to retain the Winnipeg riding, which has swung orange for most of the last 30 years, in the face of an intense challenge from the Conservatives, who have been intent on growing their appeal to working Canadians, especially those in NDP ridings.

In a speech shortly after midnight, Dance, the leader of a local business improvement association, thanked both the federal party and the Manitoba NDP, whose brand is strong provincially under Premier Wab Kinew, who had endorsed Dance.

"I will see you in Ottawa," she told supporters.

Heading into Monday's race, a senior NDP source speaking on the condition they not be named said they knew the race was a fight, but were still expecting to win.

The byelection was the first time in nearly a decade that the Blaikie name, a family whose roots run deep in the community, did not appear on the ballot. The contest was triggered after former MP Daniel Blaikie announced he was resigning. His father, the late Bill Blaikie, had represented the area for two decades under a different riding name.

In an interview with CBC News in Winnipeg, Blaikie played down the riding's reputation as a stronghold for either his family or party, saying he recalled winning by fewer 70 votes in 2015.

"I know it can be close here in Elmwood-Transcona."

National Post

TORIES ACCUSE GOVERNMENT OF CONTEMPT OF COMMONS

REDACTED RECORDS

Christopher Nardi

OTTAWA • A battle between the House of Commons and the federal public service over documents linked to the so-called "green slush fund" came to a head Monday, with Conservatives accusing the government of disobeying an order from MPs to provide unredacted records.

Conservative MP Andrew Scheer told Speaker Greg Fergus that the government was violating MPs' parliamentary privilege and argued that it was in contempt of the wide-ranging powers of the House of Commons.

"The government has disobeyed a lawful order of this House. It has failed to provide all of the papers which were formally required by this house and, in so responding, many papers were altered or outright suppressed through the redaction process," Scheer said in the Commons.

The battle stems from a June 10 Conservative motion adopted by the House of Commons ordering the government and Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) — rebranded as the "green slush fund" by Conservatives — to provide a trove of unredacted documents on the troubled fund to the House of Commons law clerk, Michel Bédard.

The motion then called for Bédard to submit those records to the RCMP.

But in the following months, over a dozen government departments and agencies either provided redacted documents or simply refused to comply with the order and withheld some or all their records.

Parliamentary privilege grants the House of Commons tremendous power when it comes to fulfilling its duties. In a letter to Fergus this summer, Bédard said that its "power to send for documents is absolute and unfettered. It is a constitutional parliamentary privilege not limited by statute."

And yet, Scheer told Fergus, at least 16 government institutions provided redacted documents to Bédard over the summer. A handful of others, such as the Department of Justice, the Office of the Auditor General and the Communications Security Establishment, withheld many or all records.

"The Justice Department brazenly put the House on notice that some 10,772 pages of relevant documents were (quote) 'completely withheld,'" Scheer said.

"There is clear and convincing evidence before the House today that a contempt was committed by the government's flagrant and systematic disobedience to the House's June 10 Order," he added.

Scheer, a former Speaker, asked Fergus to determine if the government appeared to be in contempt of the House of Commons.

If the Speaker finds there is potentially contempt, the MP promised to table a motion ordering that each infringing department and agency "get their act together" and provide all relevant unredacted documents within one week.

"For good measure, the motion would also express the House's view to urge the prime minister, consistent with the spirit of the principles of responsible government, to make his view clear and known to those delinquent government departments that he expects the House's order to be complied with this time."

Fergus said he was taking the decision in reserve and asked the Liberals, NDP and Bloc Québécois to make submissions as well.

Last month, the National Post reported that the battle between the House of Commons and government institutions, namely Auditor General Karen Hogan, was brewing over access to the documents.

In a report published in the spring, Hogan concluded that one out of six projects funded by SDTC that she audited were ineligible and that the organization had serious governance issues.

On the day her audit was published, the government announced it was abolishing the fund and folding it into the National Research Council.

In a July letter to the House of Commons clerk, Hogan said she would not comply with the order because it risked compromising her office's independence.

Separately, the RCMP wrote the Commons law clerk to express consternation about the June 10 motion and the trove of documents coming their way because it was "highly unlikely" they could be used to support potential criminal investigations.

"There is significant risk that the motion could be interpreted as a circumvention of normal investigative processes and Charter protections," RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme warned.

Both the RCMP and Hogan have said they've found no evidence of criminal activity at SDTC.

National Post

cnardi@postmedia.com

JUSTIN TANG / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservative MP Andrew Scheer, right, says the government is violating MPs' parliamentary privilege and argues it is in contempt of the House of Commons.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

BOMB THREATS PLAGUE CITY AFTER TRUMP REMARKS

Ohio stationed state police at Springfield schools Tuesday in response to a rash of bomb threats — the vast majority that officials said came from overseas — after former president Donald Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance falsely said legal Haitian immigrants in the small city were eating dogs and cats. Schools, government buildings and elected officials' homes in Springfield were among the targets of more than 30 hoax threats made last week that forced evacuations and closures. Two more schools had to be evacuated on Monday. Two highway patrol officers have been assigned to each of the Springfield's 18 schools.

Thousands of Haitian immigrants have settled in the predominantly white city of about 60,000, where they have found work in factories and warehouses.

The Associated Press

WORLD

Hezbollah blames Israel, vows 'just punishment'

PAGERS

Continued from NP1

The explosions came hours after Israel's internal security agency said it had foiled an attempt by Hezbollah to kill a former senior Israeli security official using a planted explosive device that could be remotely detonated.

Experts said the pager explosions showed signs of being a long-planned operation — though the means were not immediately known. Investigators had no immediate word on how the pagers were detonated or if explosives had somehow been sneaked into each pager.

Whatever the means, it targeted an extraordinary breadth of people with hundreds of small explosions — all at once, wherever the pager carrier happened to be — that left some maimed.

One video circulating online showed a man picking through produce at a grocery store when the bag he's carrying at his hip explodes, sending him sprawling to the ground and bystanders running. AP photographers at area hospitals said the emergency rooms were overloaded with patients. Some had missing hands or chunks blown out of their legs near the pocket area.

Abiad, Lebanon's health minister, said at least nine people were killed, including an eight-year-old girl, and 2,750 wounded by the explosions. Most had injuries in the face, hand, or around the abdomen.

Hezbollah said in a statement that two of its members were among those killed.

The Hezbollah official who spoke anonymously identified one of the dead as Ali Ammar, the son of one of the group's members in the Lebanese parliament.

"We hold the Israeli enemy fully responsible for this criminal aggression that also targeted civilians," Hezbollah said, adding that Israel will "for sure get its just punishment."

Israeli military declined to comment.

Iranian state-run IRNA news agency said that the country's ambassador, Mojtaba Amani, was superficially wounded by an exploding pager.

Previously, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah had warned the group's members not to carry cellphones, saying that they could be used by Israel to track their movements and to carry out targeted strikes.

The images seen Tuesday showed signs of detonation, said Alex Plitsas, a weapons expert at the Atlantic Council.

"A lithium ion battery fire is one thing, but I've never seen one explode like that. It looks like a small explosive charge," Plitsas said.

That raises the possibility Israel was aware of a shipment of pagers heading to Hezbollah and managed to modify the pagers before delivery, he said.

Another possibility is an electronic pulse "that was sent from afar and burnt the devices and caused their explosion," said Yehoshua Kalisky, a scientist and senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, a Tel Aviv think tank.

"It is not some random action; it was deliberate and known."

The Associated Press, with a file from Jewish News Syndicate

HUSSEIN MALLA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A first responder carries a wounded man whose handheld pager exploded at Al-Zahraa hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, on Tuesday. Experts said the simultaneous pager explosions showed signs of being a long-planned operation.

'I am a rapist,' husband tells French court

Accused of recruiting men to rape his wife

LEO SANDS

A man on trial for repeatedly drugging his wife and recruiting dozens to rape her while she was unconscious told a French court that he is a rapist — and the other accused men are, too.

The testimony from Dominique Pélicot on Tuesday — his first in the mass rape case that has sent shock waves through the country — appeared to contradict claims from many of the 50 other men who have previously said they did not know his wife was drugged and that she did not consent to the sexual acts.

"I am a rapist, like everyone else in this room. They cannot say otherwise," Pélicot, 71, said in a courtroom in Avignon.

Investigators have said Gisèle Pélicot was raped while unconscious at least 92 times by at least 72 people; they have identified and charged 51 suspects. The assaults allegedly took place between 2011 and 2020.

Dominique Pélicot, who prosecutors said recruited the men over online platforms to the couple's homes and other locations where they would assault her, faces a litany of charges including rape.

Prosecutors accused Dominique Pélicot of regularly sedating his wife using crushed anti-anxiety medication, without her knowledge. Police said that he laid out strict rules for the men accused of raping his wife, instructing them not to smell of perfume or smoke so as to avoid inadvertently awaking her, a lawyer representing her, Stéphane Babonneau, previously told The Washington Post.

At least 35 of the defendants are contesting the charges, Le Monde reported. Some have said they thought the couple were living out a sexual fantasy.

Pélicot testified that he never forced his co-defendants to do anything.

"They came looking for me themselves. They asked me, I said yes," he said, according to local media covering the trial.

The woman asked to be identified by her married name, and asked for the trial to take place in open court so the world could know what had happened to her at the hands of her now ex-husband.

According to prosecutors, the years-long alleged sexual assault left Gisèle Pélicot with physical and psychological scars.

She said she only learned of her own alleged mass rape after a separate incident in 2020, when her husband was caught filming three women under their skirts.

After police searched his electronic device, they found hundreds of photos and videos showing the alleged sexual assaults against his wife.

"For 50 years, I lived with a man who I couldn't imagine for even a single second could have committed these acts. I trusted this man completely," she told the courtroom.

The Washington Post

CHRISTOPHE SIMON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Gisèle Pélicot, with lawyer Stephane Babonneau, leaves the Avignon courthouse during her ex-husband's trial.

'Diddy' Combs indicted on sex trafficking charges

'SORDID EMPIRE'

NEW YORK • Sean "Diddy" Combs presided over a sordid empire of sexual crimes, coercing and abusing women for years, threatening them to keep them in line and enlisting a cast of aides to cover it up, according to an indictment unsealed Tuesday.

The music mogul "engaged in a persistent and pervasive pattern of abuse toward women and other individuals," including violence, in order "to fulfil his sexual desires, protect his reputation and conceal his conduct, the indictment said.

It describes him inducing female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up, sometimes days-long sexual performances dubbed "Freak Offs." It also refers obliquely to an attack on his former girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, that was captured on video.

Combs was arrested late Monday in Manhattan, six months after federal authorities conducting a sex trafficking investigation raided his luxurious homes in Los Angeles and Miami. He was due in court Tuesday afternoon, and his three sons arrived at the courthouse Tuesday morning to observe.

His lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, said outside the courthouse Tuesday that Combs is innocent and would plead not guilty.

"His spirits are good. He's confident," said the lawyer, adding Combs came to New York voluntarily to "engage the court system and start the case."

The indictment describes Combs, the 54-year-old founder of Bad Boy Records, as the head of a criminal enterprise that engaged or attempted to engage in sex trafficking, forced labour, interstate transportation for purposes of prostitution, drug offences, kidnapping, arson, bribery and obstruction of justice.

He's accused of striking, punching and dragging women, throwing objects and kicking them — and getting his personal assistants, security and household staff to help him hide it all.

"The evidence in this case is incredibly powerful," prosecutors said in a document seeking Combs' detention. They said they had interviewed over 50 victims and witnesses and expect the number to grow.

Combs and his associates wielded his "power and prestige" to intimidate and lure women into his orbit, "often under the pretense of a romantic relationship," the indictment says. It says he then would use force, threats and coercion to get the women to engage with male sex workers in the "Freak Offs" — "elaborate and produced sex performances" that Combs arranged, directed, masturbated during and often recorded, creating dozens of videos.

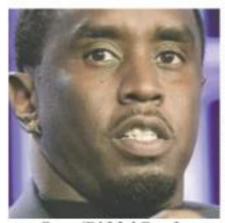
He sometimes arranged to fly the women in and ensured their participation by procuring and providing drugs, controlling their careers, leveraging his financial support and using intimidation and violence, according to the indictment.

The events could last for days, and Combs and victims would often receive IV fluids to recover from the exertion and drug use, the indictment said. It said his employees facilitated "Freak Offs" by arranging travel, booking hotel rooms, stocking them with such supplies as drugs and baby oil, scheduling the delivery of IV fluids and cleaning the rooms afterward.

During a search of Combs' homes in Miami and Los Angeles this year, law enforcement seized narcotics, videos of the "Freak Offs" and more than 1,000 bottles of baby oil and lubricant, according to prosecutors. They said agents also seized firearms and ammunition, including three AR-15s with defaced serial numbers — two of them, broken into parts, in his bedroom closet in Miami.

The indictment portrays Combs as a violent man who choked and shoved people, hit and kicked victims and sometimes dragged them by their hair, causing injuries that often took days or weeks to heal. His employees and associates sometimes witnessed his violence and kept victims from leaving, the indictment said.

It alleges Combs used the recordings of victims engaging in sex acts as "collateral" to ensure the women's obedience and silence.

The Associated Press

Sean 'Diddy' Combs

META

INSTAGRAM MAKES TEEN ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Instagram is making teen accounts private by default as it tries to make the platform safer for children amid a growing backlash against how social media affects young people's lives.

Beginning Tuesday in Canada, the U.S., U.K., and Australia, anyone under 18 who signs up for Instagram will be placed into restrictive teen accounts and those with existing accounts will be migrated over the next 60 days.

Meta said it will require teenagers to verify their ages in more instances.

"Sensitive content," such as videos of people fighting or those promoting cosmetic procedures, will be limited, Meta said.

The Associated Press

POLAND

DEADLY FLOODS SPREAD ACROSS CENTRAL EUROPE

WARSAW, POLAND Soldiers and firefighters used sandbags to reinforce river embankments and delivered food and drinking water to cut-off communities as the worst flooding in years moved Tuesday across a broad swath of Central Europe, taking lives and destroying homes.

Around 20 deaths were reported in Romania, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland. Other places braced for the worst yet to come, including two Central European genms: Budapest, the Hungarian capital, and Wroclaw, a city in southwestern Poland.

The Associated Press

ASIA

TYPHOON YAGI DEATH TOLL TOPS 500

BANGKOK Floods and landslides in Myanmar triggered by last week's Typhoon Yagi and seasonal monsoon rains have claimed at least 226 lives, state-run media reported Tuesday. The new figures push the total number of dead in Southeast Asia from the storm past 500.

The accounting of casualties has been slow, in part due to communication difficulties with affected areas.

Typhoon Yagi earlier hit Vietnam, northern Thailand and Laos, killing almost 300 people in Vietnam, 42 in Thailand and four in Laos, according to the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance.

The Associated Press

DEFENCE

CANADA IN TALKS ON SECURITY DEAL WITH U.K., U.S., AUSTRALIA

Canada is in consultations with the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia about possible collaboration in the security pact known as AUKUS. The trilateral deal was struck three years ago in an effort to boost security in the Indo-Pacific region by building a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for Australia. Some Canadian military leaders have expressed dismay that Canada was not part of the deal as they pushed the federal government to replace the Victoria-class submarine fleet. The second pillar of AUKUS is focused on military interoperability and advanced technologies. In a joint statement, the three countries say they are working with Japan on the second-pillar priorities, and will consult with Canada, South Korea and New Zealand. *The Canadian Press*

JOHN MAHONEY / POSTMEDIA NEWS

Louis-Philippe Sauvé stands behind Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet at a news conference the day after Sauvé's byelection victory in the LaSalle-Émard-Verdun riding in Montreal.

COMMENT

A historical look at just how poorly Liberals performed in this week's byelections

TRISTIN HOPPER

Monday night saw another round of byelections whose results have been widely interpreted as a signal to the Trudeau government that voters are done with it. The former Liberal riding of LaSalle-Émard-Verdun in Quebec was lost to the Bloc Québécois. And the Liberal showing in the Winnipeg riding of Elmwood-Transcona was low enough to break records.

While byelections are not always an accurate barometer of public sentiment toward a federal incumbent, Monday night's results yielded a whole host of things that have never happened before — or, at the very least, haven't happened in a generation.

Below, a look at some electoral history to show just how bad the Liberals fared in Monday's byelections.

FIRST TIME LIBERALS HAVE EVER LOST BYELECTION TO THE BLOC

Quebec has any number of federal ridings that are regularly traded between the Liberal party and the Bloc Québécois. In fact, recent polls are projecting that the Bloc will be able to seize so many Liberal ridings in the next general election that they may well end up forming the Official Opposition. But one thing the Bloc has never done is seize a previously Liberal riding outside of a general election. Louis-Philippe Sauvé's win in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun on Monday represents the first time since the separatist party's 1991 founding that it has been able to successfully paint a Liberal riding light blue in a byelection.

FIRST TIME LIBERALS HAVE SCORED BELOW 5% IN WINNIPEG

The result in the Winnipeg riding of Elmwood-Transcona was less surprising. It's a safe NDP seat that was won by an NDPer (albeit against a much stronger Conservative contender than in the 2021 election).

But where the Winnipeg result makes history is that it's the first time that a Liberal candidate has ever scored less than five per cent of the vote in the Manitoba capital. Liberal candidate Ian MacIntyre received just 1,360 votes on Monday night; 4.81 per cent of the total.

This is the worst a Liberal has ever done in Winnipeg. It's worse even than the federal election of 1917, when the ruling Unionists granted the franchise to pro-conscription demographics such as soldiers' wives and stripped it from anti-conscription demographics such as conscientious objectors in an election against the Liberals over the issue of First World War conscription. Even in that case, the Liberal candidate for Winnipeg Centre still managed to get 15.4 per cent of the vote.

DENSEST STRING OF CONSECUTIVE LIBERAL BYELECTION LOSSES SINCE 1955

Despite recent events, it's not actually all that common for the Liberal party to lose seats in byelections. Between 1990 and 2021, 42 Liberal ridings have come up for grabs as a result of the death or resignation of an MP. And in only eight of those instances did the Liberals lose the resulting byelection.

Monday night's result in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun represented the second time in just three months that a Liberal riding has flipped in a byelection. The previous one was Toronto-St. Paul's, which was won the by the Conservatives on June 26.

To find another pair of Liberal byelection losses occurring so close together, you'd have to go all the way back to 1955, when the Liberal government of Louis St-Laurent lost a New Brunswick byelection to the Progressive Conservatives — and then saw the exact same thing happen in Toronto a month later. And those losses would turn out to be a preview of coming attractions, with St-Laurent fated to lose the 1957 general election.

FIRST TIME IN 22 YEARS A LIBERAL MINISTER'S RIDING HAS FLIPPED IN BYELECTION (EXCEPT FOR THAT OTHER TIME IN JUNE)

LaSalle-Émard-Verdun wasn't just any Liberal riding. It was the riding previously held by David Lametti, the former justice minister. In the rare instance that a Liberal riding flips in a byelection, it's usually a nobody; a backbencher whose grip on power was never that great to begin with.

Under normal circumstances, you'd have to go back 22 years to find a similar phenomenon. In 2002, the Windsor riding previously held by Herb Gray — a former deputy prime minister under Jean Chrétien — was toppled in a surprise win by the NDP's Brian Masse (who's still there).

But these are not normal circumstances, of course, and it's actually only been 13 weeks since the Liberals have lost a cabinet minister's riding in a byelection. Toronto-St. Paul's, which fell to the Conservatives in June, has previously been a safe seat held for decades by serial Liberal cabinet minister Carolyn Bennett.

FIRST TIME LIBERALS HAVE LOST A MONTREAL RIDING IN BYELECTION SINCE 1990

Just as with Toronto-St. Paul's, the loss in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun was particularly scary to Liberal insiders because of where it happened. Even in some of the Liberals' most dire opinion polls of the past 12 months, the party was usually slated to continue winning seats in Montreal. As with Toronto, the Quebec metropolis has represented the country's most reliable base of Liberal support ever since the Trudeau government took power in 2015.

So, to find another instance of a Liberal riding in Montreal getting flipped in a byelection, you'd have to go all the way back to 1990, when Justin Trudeau was still a teenager.

That was when Liberal MP Jean-Claude Malépart's death from lung cancer suddenly put his Montreal riding of Laurier-Sainte-Marie into contention. It was won by a 43-year-old Gilles Duceppe, who had run as an independent because his eventual political party — the Bloc Québécois — didn't exist yet.

FIRST ELECTION (POSSIBLY EVER) IN WHICH TWO CANDIDATES RECEIVED ZERO VOTES

This entry isn't about the Liberals, but it's history nonetheless. The ballot in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun was obnoxiously long, with a record-breaking 91 candidates. This was the doing of the Longest Ballot Committee, a group that has taken to packing byelection ballots with as many names as possible in order to protest Canada's first-past-the-post electoral system.

The group previously made history in Toronto-St. Paul's with an 84-name ballot that would notably result in Canada's first federal election candidate to receive zero votes. The results in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun would result in two candidates who received zero votes; Ysack Dupont and Daniel Stuckless. It could well be the first time in the entire span of democratic history that a single electoral contest has featured not one but two candidates who didn't even bother to vote for themselves.

National Post

Isolation may have led to extinction

NEANDERTHALS

COURTNEY GREENBERG

A new study supports the idea that Neanderthals likely went extinct because of how they lived — in isolation.

The early human species were anti-social, which could be what led to their demise, according to the study by researchers at the University of Copenhagen's Globe Institute. It was published in the science journal Cell Genomics on Sept. 11. Neanderthals went extinct roughly 40,000 years ago and many scientists have tried to pinpoint why. A widely accepted theory is that they remained isolated; however, evidence was lacking to confirm the theory for Western European Neanderthals until now.

The results from the recently published study suggested there were multiple isolated Neanderthal communities in Europe around the time they went extinct. They had "limited, if any, level of interactions between different Neanderthal populations in their last millenniums, even though these populations were geographically very close to each other."

The study is based on the discovery of the remains of a male Neanderthal, nicknamed Thorin, in a cave in southern France in 2015. Thorin is the most complete Neanderthal individual found in France since 1979, researchers said. Thorin was part of a small group living at the Grotte Mandrin, a French rock shelter overhanging the Rhône River Valley. The group did not have any genetic crossover with other known European Neanderthals, despite their proximity, according to the study.

"When we look at these genomes (a complete set of DNA) from Neanderthals, we see that they are quite inbred and therefore don't have much genetic diversity. They have been living in small groups for many generations," said Globe Institute associate professor Martin Sikora in a news release. He was one of the researchers of the study.

"We know that inbreeding reduces genetic diversity in a population, which can be detrimental to their ability to survive if it occurs over a longer term."

Unlike modern humans, who are more connected, the results from analyzing Thorin "supports the notion that social organization of Neanderthals was different to early modern humans," said Sikora.

There is evidence of early modern humans in Siberia "forming so-called mating networks to avoid issues with inbreeding, while living in small communities," said another researcher from the University of Copenhagen Tharsika Vimala. But that behaviour was not found among Neanderthals.

"This is some of the evidence that we were looking for and needed to figure out how likely this hypothesis of them going extinct because of their isolated lifestyle is," said Vimala.

National Post

Obituaries

To place an Obituary or an In Memoriam: | Email announcements@postmedia.com | Phone 1-877-750-5054

Obituaries

BOBYN, Donald James

December 18, 1939 - September 13, 2024

It is with tremendous sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Donald (Don) James Bobyn, on September 13, 2024, age 84, in Calgary, Alberta. A cherished son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend, Don will forever be remembered for his infectious smile and positive energy. Born on December 18, 1939, to parents James and Katherine Bobyn (nee Boryski) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Don was the youngest of four brothers, Edward, Patrick and Orest, all of whom he shared a special bond with. When the "4 brothers" were together the house was always filled with laughter. The 4 brothers so loved their families, they established a small trust to ensure Bobyn family reunions could continue for what has grown to +90 members of the extended Bobyn family. Don met the love of his life, Marcelia (Marcy) Burlack in Saskatoon in 1959. They were married on May 18, 1963, and were blessed with three children; Gregory, Linda and Ronald. Don was never shy about expressing his love for Marcy and his children, and his eyes always glistened when asked to tell the stories of his love for his family. Don graduated from the University of Saskatchewan as a Civil Engineer (honors) in 1963. Don and Marcy moved to Calgary, where Don made his mark as a respected oil and gas executive (Sulpetro). In 1991, Don launched a private company (Sogar Resources), currently under the leadership of his son, Ron Bobyn, as a special source of pride for Don. He was a mentor, builder and dreamer, always seeking new opportunities organizing people toward the next challenge. Don always treated his professional colleagues and investors like family. Don loved to travel the world with Marcy and friends. They could also be found enjoying the mountains at the family cabin in Panorama, BC, engaging in a "friendly" game of Troika, attending the latest production at Rosebud Theater, or teaching his grandchildren how to drive a stick shift in his beloved green convertible. He was always the guy who brought everyone together, whether there was a reason or not. Don was always the social leader. Don was extremely proud of his Ukrainian heritage, dedicating countless hours in support of many organizations, including Medical Mercy Canada (MMC) and the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), to name a few. He will be remembered as one of the founding members of St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Parish and 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus. Whether it was volunteering at the annual Men's Dinner or singing with the choir during Sunday Liturgy, Don always made time for the organizations and people he loved. This was especially true when it came to his unwavering support for his wife, children and grandchildren. Don will be lovingly remembered by his wife Marcy, his children Gregory (Stacey), Linda (Christian), and Ronald (Shonalie), his grandchildren Laura, Amy, David, Elise, Sarah, Jonathan, Owen, Kailey, Breanne, Joey & Rozie, and 16 nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by parents James and Katherine; brothers Edward, Patrick, and Orest; and nephews David and Donald. A Funeral Liturgy for family and friends will be held at St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church (4903 - 45 Street SW Calgary) on Friday, September 20, 2024, at 10:30am followed by lunch and a reception in the Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, or donations, Don would want you to donate your time to a charity, spend more time with your family, reach out to a friend, or help those in need. Photos, memories and condolences may be shared through www.evanjstrong.com.

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Legals, Tenders and Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of Brian Wayne Pendle;
also known as Brian Pendle
who died on August 2, 2024.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by October 28, 2024, and provide details of your claim with:

Summit Legal Group
Attn: Sean Green
#200, 30 Glendeer Circle SE
Calgary, AB T2H 2Z7.

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of KARL HEINZ EGGEBRECHT who died on July 3, 2024

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file and provide details of your claim by: October 21, 2024 with:

LAVEN AND COMPANY LLP
at: #310, 700-4 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3J4

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of Maria Madalena Coelho
who died on September 27, 2023

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by: October 18, 2024

with: Emily K. Smyth
at Underwood Gilholme
at: 210, 4954 Richard Road SW
Calgary, AB T3E6L1

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

RE: ESTATE OF JOY JULIETTE CYR
DECEASED MAY 15, 2023

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by October 25, 2024 and provide details of your claim with

Bowness Montgomery Law Office
Suite 307, 7930 Bowness Road NW
Calgary, Alberta T3B 0H3.
Attention: Anthony Merah.

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

IAN GAVAN / GETTY IMAGES

Michaela Mabinty DePrince performs Giselle with the English National Ballet in London in 2017. The renowned ballerina died unexpectedly at 29. She was rescued as an orphan from Sierra Leone.

MICHAELA MABINTY DEPRINCE: 1995-2024

FAMED BALLERINA WAS SAVED FROM WAR

SIERRA LEONE

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. • Ballet dancer Michaela Mabinty DePrince, who came to the United States from an orphanage in war-torn Sierra Leone and performed on some of the world's biggest stages, has died, her family said. She was 29.

"Michaela touched so many lives across the world, including ours. She was an unforgettable inspiration to everyone who knew her or heard her story," her family said in a statement posted Friday on DePrince's social media accounts. "From her early life in war-torn Africa, to stages and screens across the world, she achieved her dreams and so much more."

A cause of death was not provided. DePrince was adopted by an American couple and by age 17 she had been featured in a documentary film and had performed on the TV show "Dancing With the Stars."

After graduating from high school and the American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, she became a principal dancer at Dance Theatre of Harlem. She then went to the Netherlands, where she danced with the Dutch National Ballet. She returned to the U.S. and joined the Boston Ballet in 2021.

"We're sending our love and support to the family of Michaela Mabinty DePrince at this time of loss," the Boston Ballet said in a statement.

"We were so fortunate to know her; she was a beautiful person, a wonderful dancer, and she will be greatly missed by us all."

In her memoir, Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina, she shared her journey from the orphanage to the stage. She also wrote a children's book, Ballerina Dreams.

DePrince suffered from a skin pigmentation disorder that had her labelled "the devil's child" at the orphanage.

"I lost both my parents, so I was there (the orphanage) for about a year and I wasn't treated very well because I had vitiligo," DePrince told the AP in a 2012 interview.

"We were ranked as numbers and number 27 was the least favourite and that was my number, so I got the least amount of food, the least amount of clothes and whatnot."

She remembered seeing a photo of an American ballet dancer on a magazine page that had blown against the gate of the orphanage during Sierra Leone's civil war.

"All I remember is she looked really, really happy," DePrince told the AP, adding that she wished "to become this exact person."

She said she saw hope in that photo, "and I ripped the page out and I stuck it in my underwear because I didn't have any place to put it," she said.

She is survived by five sisters and two brothers.

The Associated Press

'BIASED' WILL THAT LEFT $2.9M TO SON OVERRULED IN B.C.

DAUGHTER INHERITED $170,000

NATHAN GRIFFITHS
in Vancouver

A B.C. woman successfully challenged a will that left over 80 per cent of her mother's wealth to her brother, saying he received preferential treatment as the only son.

A B.C. Supreme Court judge found that family assets weren't evenly distributed after the death of Yat Hei Law, the mother of Ginny Lam and William Law. Under the will, about $2.9 million was left to the son, $170,000 to the daughter.

"Ginny and William's mother held a gender-based bias that resulted in William receiving most of his mother's assets," Justice Maria Morellato wrote in her decision.

"This bias influenced and shaped the disposition of the mother's assets, not only through the gifts she gave Ginny and William during her lifetime, but was also reflected in her 2018 will," Morellato wrote.

A court can vary a will if a will-maker doesn't adequately provide for a spouse or children, according to B.C.'s Wills, Estates and Succession Act.

Ginny Lam, who challenged her mother's will in court, argued her mother's decision was based on outdated gender values from 1960s village culture in China.

"My mom truly believed that my brother was the king and the cat's meow," Lam said in an interview. "She truly embodied that sons and boys were put on a pedestal."

Lam, who was born in Vancouver, said her parents were "your traditional new immigrants" when they moved to B.C. in 1969. "My father owned a Chinese restaurant and he was very forward thinking, very entrepreneurial."

In 1992, Lam's father won $1 million in the BC/49 lottery. He sold the restaurant and purchased three rental properties. After her father died, over time, more and more of those assets were given to her brother.

"She told me pretty much throughout my life that my brother was going to inherit everything," Lam said. "She told me to my face that 'He's a son, he's going to inherit everything.' And I was angry with her."

In court filings, Lam provided evidence of the many ways her mother offered preferential treatment to her brother throughout childhood, in ways big and small.

Her mother made her park on the street so her brother could use the garage. He was given the best pieces of meat and fish at meals. Once Lam's mother told her she "should not be so smart or successful, and that girls should get a regular job so that they can bear sons and take care of their families," Morellato wrote.

"I know a lot of the new Chinese people that are coming don't adopt these traditional values that say that sons are better than daughters," Lam said.

Even still, she said many women have reached out with similar experiences, talking about mothers "giving everything" to their sons at the expense of their daughters.

"I need to get this out there so that more women don't feel like me, where I felt like I was ashamed, I was on my own, that I had no choice but to follow my mom," Lam said. "I was torn between my family heritage and growing up being a Canadian citizen and not wanting to bring shame to the family.

"We were not allowed to talk about this in the family, and I'm pretty sure it's very common in other families, too," Lam said. "You don't talk about money. You're not allowed to talk about feelings."

She said she hoped her story would help women in similar situations to feel empowered to speak up and seek advice.

"The hand they get dealt does not have to be their story," Lam said.

Postmedia News, with a file from Susan Lazaruk

DARRYL DYCK / THE CANADIAN PRESS FILES

A B.C. Supreme Court judge found that family assets weren't evenly distributed after the death of a woman who left about $2.9 million to her son and only $170,000 to her daughter.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

EX-CABINET MINISTER SEEKS TO FORM PARTY FOR CENTRIST VOTERS

The suspension of BC United's election campaign left centrist voters in British Columbia "orphaned," says former federal cabinet minister Herb Dhaliwal. He said he wants to revive a Liberal party for those left politically homeless after the BC United collapse in favour of the BC Conservatives. "There are lots of people, they're not interested in voting for either, so they feel betrayed and they feel orphaned," Dhaliwal said. He said he wants to build a new party for centrist voters under the name "New Liberal Party of BC" for the election on Oct. 19, but Elections BC rejected the name due to its potential to confuse voters. Dhaliwal, shown, who left his Vancouver-area riding in 2004, said Leader Kevin Falcon's suspension of the BC United campaign "betrayed" supporters. *The Canadian Press*

TORSTEN BLACKWOOD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

An Australian passenger has been fined $5,500 for jet fuel dumped after his behaviour forced the plane to return.

UNRULY AIRLINE PASSENGER FINED $5,500 FOR WASTED FUEL

Man must also pay $8,000 court penalty

In a new tactic aimed at cracking down on disruptive airline passengers, a 33-year-old Australian man has been fined $5,500 to pay for fuel dumped from the plane when his unruly behaviour forced its return to Perth. That's on top of an $8,000 fine imposed by the Perth Magistrates Court.

Australian Federal Police announced the penalties, as well as the man's guilty plea last week. The incident dates to September 2023, police said. The man was charged with disorderly behaviour on an aircraft and failure to comply with safety instructions.

Police did not identify the man or the airline, but Australian news outlets have reported the incident occurred on a JetStar flight, a low-cost carrier that is a subsidiary of Qantas. Allegedly, he was drunk and disruptive.

After the flight landed back in Perth, the man was confronted by TV reporters. He told 9 News that he would plead guilty because then he wouldn't face prison. Flexing his right bicep, he said "Sorry, guys" to his fellow passengers.

"All it is — is just a fine," he said, laughing.

NOT FUNNY

However, Australian Federal Police Supt. Shona Davis said in a statement that the AFP was not treating the incident as a laughing matter.

"This incident should serve as a warning that criminal behaviour on board can come at a heavy cost to the offender," she said.

"It's far simpler to obey the directions of airline staff than cause unnecessary issues, which can end up hitting you in the hip pocket."

This is not the first time an airline has gone after a passenger for bad behaviour. In 2019, a British-based carrier said it had billed a passenger the equivalent of $106,000 for actions including trying to open plane doors during a flight.

In 2019, the International Air Transport Association called disruptive passengers "a significant problem" with one incident for every 1,053 flights reported in 2017.

HEALTH

CITY OF OTTAWA RESUMES VAX SUSPENSIONS

OTTAWA Thousands of Ottawa students could face suspensions for out-of-date vaccination records as the local health unit resumes enforcement after a two-year pause.

Ottawa Public Health says students born in 2007 and 2017 whose immunization records are out-of-date could face up to 20 days suspension.

A report to the Ottawa Board of Health on Monday says about 14,500 students in that cohort, or just under two-thirds, are behind on their immunization records.

The health unit says it will first send out notices to families in December on how to get their child vaccinated and update their records, before issuing suspension notices in the new year if they are still out-of-date.

The Canadian Press

HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CANADA APPROVES MODERNA COVID-19 VARIANT VACCINE

TORONTO Health Canada has authorized Moderna's updated COVID-19 vaccine that protects against circulating variants of the virus.

The mRNA vaccine, called Spikevax, has been reformulated to target the KP.2 subvariant of Omicron, the agency said. It replaces the previous version of the vaccine released last year, which targeted the XBB.1.5 subvariant of Omicron. Health Canada recently asked provinces and territories to get rid of their older COVID-19 vaccines to ensure the most current vaccine will be used during this fall's respiratory virus season. Health Canada is also reviewing two other updated COVID-19 vaccines but has not yet authorized them, Pfizer's Comirnaty, an mRNA vaccine, as well as Novavax's protein-based vaccine.

The Canadian Press

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Joel Fagliano

No. 0814

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				18						■	19			
20						■	■	21		22	■	23		
24					■	25	26				27			
28				■	29				■	30				
31			■	32				■	33			■	■	■
■	■	34	35					36				37	■	■
■	■	■	38			■	39				■	40	41	42
43	44	45			■	46				■	47			
48					49				■	50				
51			■	52			■	■	53					
54			55	■	56		57	58						
59				■	60					■	61			
62				■	63					■	64			

PUZZLE BY SAMUEL A. DONALDSON

ACROSS

1 When the stage direction "Enter three Witches" appears in "Macbeth"
5 Mower houses
10 Admits (to)
14 "High" time
15 Like abandoned malls
16 Chain with a "2 x 2 x 2" breakfast combo
17 Seventh heaven
19 Purina rival
20 Virginia Tech athletes
21 Texting format, in brief
23 Lead-in to -meter
24 Preach, maybe
25 March Madness round
28 Barbecue joint offering
29 Thermostat piece
30 Big name in Greek yogurt
31 ___-Caps (movie treat)
32 Gym rep
33 Church founded by Joseph Smith, for short
34 Beatles hit written by a teenage Paul McCartney
38 Dedicated work
39 Major league?
40 Morning hrs.
43 Like a go-getter
46 Word following sand or steel
47 Composer ___ Carlo Menotti
48 With 56-Across, hairstylist's observation (that also applies to 17-, 25- and 34-Across?)
50 "Keep Climbing" airline
51 St. Louis summer setting
52 Dallas sch.
53 Wilbur, to Fern, in "Charlotte's Web"
54 Dethrone
56 See 48-Across
59 Gym bag emanation
60 Preprinted word on some nametags
61 Olympic blade
62 Leakes of reality TV
63 "So long," in Seville
64 Prepared to drive

DOWN

1 Last members of relay teams
2 Fill, as with crayon
3 Acknowledged applause
4 Many residents of Nunavut
5 Comedians' collections
6 "Good one"
7 Blunder
8 Pump option
9 Note by a poor grade
10 Employer of Carrie Mathison on "Homeland," for short
11 "Well, whaddya know!"
12 Tegan and Sara, e.g.
13 Trackable scents
18 Ruby of "A Raisin in the Sun"
22 Insistently unhip
25 iPhone speaker?
26 Retail giant headquartered in Bentonville, Ark.
27 Angle
29 2021 sci-fi epic nominated for Best Picture
32 Evergreens with fragrant wood
33 Like a wet noodle
35 One making a bed, perhaps
36 Significant stretches
37 Part of a car's exhaust system
41 Afternoon attraction
42 Obtained, informally
43 Bigwig
44 Bro's greeting
45 Stages, as a play
46 Went on the road
47 Lose in a logrolling match, say
49 Poker variant with four hole cards
50 "In excelsis ___"
53 Vietnamese soups
55 Uno + due
57 ___ Lilly and Company
58 Mo preceder

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	A	D	■	■	R	A	S	P	■	■	J	A	Z	Z
P	L	O	D	■	E	C	H	O	■	L	A	N	A	I
O	O	Z	E	■	T	H	U	S	■	A	D	O	P	T
T	H	E	B	L	U	E	S	T	E	Y	E	■	■	■
M	A	R	T	Y	R	■	H	I	V	E	■	N	E	O
E	S	S	■	I	N	G	■	T	A	R	B	A	B	Y
■	■	■	U	N	T	I	L	■	■	■	U	N	O	S
■	S	O	N	G	O	F	S	O	L	O	M	O	N	■
L	E	N	D	■	■	■	D	U	E	T	S	■	■	■
B	E	L	O	V	E	D	■	R	A	T	■	M	A	T
S	K	Y	■	L	O	R	E	■	D	E	S	I	R	E
■	■	■	T	O	N	I	M	O	R	R	I	S	O	N
D	E	B	U	G	■	F	A	S	O	■	T	H	U	D
O	M	E	N	S	■	T	I	L	L	■	E	A	S	E
S	U	L	A	■	■	S	L	O	E	■	■	P	E	R

HOUSING STARTS DIPPED IN AUGUST

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. says the annual pace of housing starts in August slowed 22 per cent compared with July. The national housing agency says the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts came in at 217,405 units in August, down from 279,804 a month earlier. The drop came as the annual pace of urban starts fell 24 per cent to 199,478 units compared with 261,043 in July. The annual rate of starts of multi-unit urban projects such as apartments, condominiums and townhouses dropped 29 per cent to 154,290 units, while the rate of single-detached urban starts rose three per cent to 45,188. The annual pace of rural starts was estimated at 17,927 units. CMHC says the six-month moving average of the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts was 248,480 units in August, down 2.9 per cent from 255,794 in July. *The Canadian Press*

Mastercard money manager grows with recruits from Teachers' Pension Plan

LAYAN ODEH

The Mastercard Foundation's new money-management arm is in expansion mode, and executives have been finding new employees from one place in particular — the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

Mastercard Foundation Asset Management has hired at least six people from the pension fund, according to their LinkedIn profiles. The names include Dan Houle, the fledgling firm's chief technology officer, and Michael Powers, who joined as director of investments in July after 16 years at Ontario Teachers'.

Payments company Mastercard Inc. set up the foundation and seeded it with a block of its shares around the time of its 2006 initial public offering. That single-stock portfolio grew to US$47 billion, so earlier this year, the foundation launched MFAM to begin selling down its Mastercard stake and diversifying its holdings.

Both the foundation and the asset manager are based in Toronto.

MFAM's board includes a number of big names in Canadian finance, including Lynn Patterson, a former Bank of Canada deputy governor, and Jim Leech, who was Ontario Teachers' chief executive officer for more than six years until he retired at the end of 2013. The board hired John Barker as chief investment officer.

Other former Ontario Teachers' employees who've made the jump to MFAM include Peter Simpson, the head of finance and operations; Jane Liu, director of investment operations; and Anthony Di Fonzo, director of finance and operations.

The asset manager's chief operating officer is Jennifer Newman, who worked in operating roles at Ontario Teachers' for more than a dozen years before leaving in 2021, according to her LinkedIn page.

A representative for Ontario Teachers' declined to comment.

It's the latest example of money managers attracting talent from North America's largest institutional investors. In recent months, Qatar Investment Authority poached Kevin Zhu from Canadian pension OPTrust, and Abu Dhabi Investment Council hired Michael Phillips from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

MFAM plans to sell 13 to 15 per cent of the Mastercard stock yearly over the next seven years, Barker said in an interview in May.

As a start, MFAM will partner with third-party managers before doing its own direct investments, Barker said at the time. It currently has 17 employees, according to a spokesperson.

The Mastercard Foundation works to aid young people in Africa and Indigenous youth in Canada.

—With assistance from Paige Smith.
Bloomberg

August's deceleration in the inflation rate was driven mainly by a drop in gasoline prices, which decreased by 5.1 per cent year-over-year, after an increase of 1.9 per cent the month before. Statistics Canada attributed this to base effects and lower oil prices. DAVE CHAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Inflation slows to 2%, raising odds of bigger Bank of Canada cut to key rate

Decrease 'continues to validate the need' for central bank to continue easing plan

JORDAN GOWLING

Inflation slowed to two per cent in August, hitting the Bank of Canada's target and adding to the case for more aggressive interest rate cuts.

The reading was the slowest increase in the consumer price index since February 2021, and economists say it increases the odds of a 50-basis-point cut at the central bank's next meeting in October.

"Inflation continues to validate the need for the Bank of Canada to continue cutting its policy rate," said James Orlando, senior economist with Toronto-Dominion Bank, in a note to clients.

"We calculate that the current policy rate is still nearly 200 basis points above where it should be based on the current state of the economy."

Economist David Rosenberg, founder and president of Rosenberg Research & Associates Inc., said much will depend on what the U.S. Federal Reserve does at its meeting Wednesday and data that comes down before Oct. 23.

"But the complete lack of any inflationary concerns at a time when the labour market is cracking up like an April ice sheet makes the case for a more aggressive easing policy very persuasive," he said in a note to clients.

August's deceleration was driven mainly by a drop in gasoline prices, which decreased by 5.1 per cent year-over-year, after an increase of 1.9 per cent the month before. Statistics Canada attributed this to base effects and lower oil prices.

The biggest contributors to inflation remain shelter costs. Mortgage interest costs grew by 18.8 per cent in August, a slower pace than the year before when they jumped by 30.9 per cent. If mortgage interest costs were excluded from the consumer price index basket, the inflation rate would be 1.2 per cent.

Core inflation measures, which the Bank of Canada prefers, continued to ease in August. CPI-common came in at two per cent, CPI-median decelerated to 2.3 per cent and CPI-trim sits at 2.4 per cent, all within the central bank's target range.

Stephen Brown, deputy chief North American economist at Capital Economics, said the lower inflation rate in August was mainly driven by base effects and he expects it will rise back to 2.5 per cent in the fourth quarter.

"Nonetheless, the details of August release provide further evidence that the inflation battle is almost won, and will serve to increase speculation that the bank might soon cut by a larger 50 basis points."

Bank of Canada governor Tiff Macklem left the door open for steeper cuts if "growth does not materialize as expected," he said in an interview with the Financial Times last week.

Financial Post
jgowling@postmedia.com

Canadian yield curve disinverts as Macklem, U.S. Fed eye cuts

ERIK HERTZBERG

Canada's benchmark two-year yield briefly dropped below the 10-year for the first time in more than two years, as traders looked ahead to United States Federal Reserve cuts and Bank of Canada governor Tiff Macklem made dovish comments to the Financial Times.

Canada two-year notes dropped as low as 2.862 per cent on Monday, the lowest level since June 2022 and down about 150 basis points since late May.

Falling yields and the disinversion of the curve reflect the rapid change in expectations for short-term interest rates in North America. Economists, markets and central bankers are increasingly convinced that a two-year campaign of aggressive monetary tightening has largely snuffed out inflation pressures.

As a result, there's less of a need for borrowing costs to keep restricting growth. Swap markets show traders expect the Fed to cut by at least a quarter-point on Wednesday, with about a 50 per cent chance of a half-point cut.

The Bank of Canada has already cut rates three times since June, bringing the benchmark overnight rate to 4.25 per cent, and officials have signalled more to come. Economists see mounting weakness in the labour market, and some of them are calling on policy-makers to start making bigger moves to bring down borrowing costs.

Macklem told the Financial Times in an interview that there's "enough slack in the economy" to get back to the two per cent inflation target and policy-makers "don't want to see further or sustained weakness in the labour market."

He also reiterated that it "could be appropriate to move faster" on interest rates. Speaking to reporters on Sept. 4, Macklem said policy-makers had also discussed a scenario in which the economy and inflation surprise to the upside and the bank reduces the pace of easing.

Traders in overnight swaps have also upped their bets for a larger-than-normal reduction at the central bank's Oct. 23 decision. Swaps markets put the odds of a 50-basis point cut at around 50 per cent.

Some economists want Bank of Canada governor Tiff Macklem to move more aggressively with rate cuts. TONY CALDWELL FILES

Markets expect rates in Canada to fall to about 2.5 per cent by July of next year — more than 50 basis points lower than they were pricing a month ago.

"Unfortunately for bears, there is no mystic in the curve besides the monetary policy cycle," Fred Demers, investment strategist at BMO Asset Management, said in an email.

The yield curve only signals that policy is set to loosen, and is "mostly removing the knife on the throat" of the economy, he said.

Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expect yearly price pressures to fall to 2.1 per cent, which would be the lowest since February 2021.

The country's unemployment rate unexpectedly jumped to 6.6 per cent in August, and third-quarter growth is expected to be lower than the central bank's forecasts.

Bloomberg

Canadian Business Leader Awards

Congratulations to Our 2024 Canadian Business Leader Honourees

Canadian Business Leader of the Year Recipient

Sue Riddell Rose
President and CEO
Perpetual Energy & Rubellite Energy

Canadian Business Leader Lifetime Achievement Recipient

Alex Pourbaix
Executive Chair
Cenovus Energy

Thank You to Our Partners

Gold

Reception

Head Table

Silver

Bronze

Trico Homes

Video Production Partner

The Future of Business Success
Chamber.ca

MARKETS

THE MARKETS ON 09.17.24

S&P/TSX

23,677.70
-24.37
-0.10%

TSX VENTURE

582.35
+0.30
+0.05%

DOW JONES

41,606.18
-15.90
-0.04%

NASDAQ

17,628.06
+35.93
+0.20%

NORTH AMERICAN INDEXES

TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE

Index	Close	Net ch	% ch	Vol 00s	Day high	Day low	52wk high	52wk low	Wk %ch	YTD %ch	52wk %ch
Capped Energy	263.57	+3.94	+1.5	980607	263.69	259.64	307.77	230.69	+3.2	+8.9	-2.5
Capped Materials	395.22	-0.55	-0.1	470209	398.56	392.54	398.56	278.81	+6.1	+24.7	+17.6
Global Mining	120.35	-0.26	-0.2	1357714	121.39	120.02	130.09	98.57	+6.1	+6.1	+10.3
Global Gold	373.56	-1.83	-0.5	554438	376.85	370.57	380.07	238.95	+5.3	+31.3	+34.8
Capped Industrials	462.96	-3.87	-0.8	106743	468.09	461.90	474.16	373.27	+1.8	+9.6	+11.4
Capped Consumer Disc	290.57	+0.12	nil	59680	292.48	289.21	294.41	248.42	+4.9	+6.3	+9.2
Capped Consumer Stap	1,024.56	-15.28	-1.5	50077	1,043.32	1,021.93	1,046.13	809.00	-0.2	+18.4	+21.1
Capped Health Care	26.74	+0.19	+0.7	19508	26.83	26.48	28.80	19.84	+5.7	+12.7	+9.0
Capped Financials	446.13	+0.19	nil	518272	447.28	444.84	447.28	318.78	+2.5	+16.2	+23.2
Capped Info Tech	230.87	-0.14	-0.1	82894	233.66	229.43	235.12	166.15	+3.4	+8.5	+20.5
Capped Telecom	166.64	-0.59	-0.4	109133	168.04	166.01	181.83	144.60	+0.1	-3.4	-0.9
Capped Utilities	311.55	-1.15	-0.4	116580	314.29	310.31	314.29	246.90	+3.8	+10.3	+6.6
Capped Real Estate	351.32	-2.45	-0.7	62551	354.64	350.85	356.44	260.83	+2.4	+13.5	+13.2
S&P/TSX Composite	23,677.70	-24.37	-0.1	2762345	23,800.59	23,603.85	23,800.59	18,692.06	+2.9	+13.0	+14.8
Capped Composite	27,432.36	-28.23	-0.1	2762345	27,574.73	27,346.79	27,574.73	21,656.13	+2.9	+13.0	+14.8
TSX Unweighted	412.53	+1.21	+0.3	2762345	n.a.	n.a.	412.53	322.36	+4.3	+16.0	+15.2
S&P/TSX 60	1,420.98	-2.93	-0.2	1743996	1,429.33	1,417.14	1,429.33	1,122.19	+2.5	+12.3	+14.7
S&P/TSX 60 Capped	1,571.32	-3.24	-0.2	1743996	1,580.56	1,567.07	1,580.56	1,240.92	+2.5	+12.3	+14.7
S&P/TSX Completion	1,418.60	+4.71	+0.3	1018349	1,422.64	1,411.55	1,422.64	1,118.13	+4.7	+15.7	+15.1
S&P/TSX SmallCap	801.32	+3.39	+0.4	746090	803.15	796.90	803.15	638.68	+5.5	+14.1	+13.7
Income Trust	227.74	-1.42	-0.6	67921	229.94	227.03	230.09	168.41	+3.7	+9.7	+7.5
Capped REIT	177.61	-0.90	-0.5	56999	179.18	177.27	179.81	136.42	+3.0	+10.3	+8.4

Index	Close	Net ch	% ch	Day high	Day low	52wk high	52wk low	52wk %ch
FINANCIAL POST								
FPX Growth	7,114.72	-16.60	-0.2	n.a.	n.a.	7,131.32	5,805.98	+16.1
FPX Balanced	6,115.62	-13.80	-0.2	n.a.	n.a.	6,129.42	5,107.06	+14.4
FPX Income	5,227.65	-8.23	-0.2	n.a.	n.a.	5,235.88	4,464.22	+12.6
TSX VENTURE EXCHANGE								
Composite	582.35	+0.30	+0.1	585.01	578.99	623.85	506.65	-1.4
DOW JONES								
Industrials	41,606.18	-15.90	nil	41,835.28	41,470.69	41,835.28	32,327.20	+20.2
Transportation	16,013.77	+171.47	+1.1	16,132.71	15,920.47	16,334.96	13,471.47	+4.4
Utilities	1,059.33	-1.68	-0.2	1,062.33	1,056.58	1,064.49	765.47	+18.7
Composite	13,339.23	+29.11	+0.2	13,409.45	13,296.69	13,409.45	10,564.68	+15.6
NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE								
Composite	19,225.78	-30.60	-0.2	19,331.59	19,176.51	19,331.59	14,638.37	+20.4
Energy	13,543.80	+122.29	+0.9	13,553.36	13,404.90	15,093.27	12,539.06	-3.1
Financial	11,605.39	+20.16	+0.2	11,654.66	11,581.35	11,654.66	8,131.53	+27.6
Health Care	27,976.43	-362.07	-1.3	28,338.50	27,898.92	28,535.72	21,941.17	+18.6
NYSE MKT								
Composite	4,930.99	+7.48	+0.2	4,953.80	4,912.44	5,336.11	4,332.72	+8.7
Major Market	3,850.16	+7.15	+0.2	3,865.15	3,834.61	3,865.15	2,949.62	+20.9
NASDAQ STOCK MARKET								
Composite	17,628.06	+35.93	+0.2	17,781.74	17,544.64	18,671.07	12,543.86	+28.6
Industrials	10,393.95	+56.77	+0.5	10,483.89	10,361.03	10,507.07	7,954.95	+14.5
Insurance	16,258.93	+0.52	nil	16,311.45	16,210.07	16,311.45	11,612.39	+34.5
Banks	4,245.63	+31.37	+0.7	4,308.20	4,226.98	4,436.47	2,791.43	+35.4
Financial	11,507.45	+10.01	+0.1	11,597.89	11,487.40	11,726.03	9,176.29	+11.9
Transportation	6,636.03	+85.06	+1.3	6,702.25	6,609.80	7,359.98	5,531.03	+8.6
Telecomms	431.73	-3.82	-0.9	437.03	430.70	437.03	371.78	+2.0
100 Index	19,432.40	+9.34	nil	19,596.34	19,337.12	20,690.97	14,058.33	+27.8
RUSSELL								
2000	2,205.48	+16.31	+0.7	2,229.00	2,199.17	2,300.00	1,633.67	+19.4
STANDARD & POOR'S								
500 Composite	5,634.58	+1.49	nil	5,670.81	5,614.05	5,670.81	4,103.78	+26.6
Industrials	1,113.39	+5.75	+0.5	1,117.57	1,107.68	1,117.57	813.21	+25.7
Financials	751.32	+3.82	+0.5	754.18	748.55	761.21	460.41	+30.2
Utilities	399.12	-0.33	-0.1	400.64	397.94	400.64	278.06	+21.9
100 Stocks	2,703.99	+0.31	nil	2,723.33	2,692.30	2,758.54	1,932.10	+29.4
VALUE LINE								
Arithmetic	10,824.27	+59.35	+0.6	10,896.78	10,764.92	10,940.30	8,297.29	+17.3

COMMODITIES

NYMEX GAS

US$2.32
-US5¢

GOLD

US$2,564.30
-US$16.10

SILVER

US$30.73
-US1¢

CRUDE OIL PRICING

WEST TEXAS INTERMEDIATE

US$72.06
US96¢

For information purposes only, from most recent daily pricing figures available.

INTERNATIONAL INDEXES

Index	Close	Net ch	% ch	52wk high	52wk low	Wk %ch
WORLD (MIDDAY)						
MSCI (US$)	3640.73	+5.87	+0.2	3659.44	2731.99	n.a.
AUSTRALIA						
All Ords	8361.20	+20.10	+0.2	8361.20	6960.20	+1.8
BRAZIL						
BRSP	134960.19	-158.03	-0.1	137343.96	112531.52	+0.5
BRITAIN						
FT Ords	2838.80	+14.30	+0.5	2931.70	2498.90	+2.3
FTSE 100	8309.86	+31.42	+0.4	8445.80	7291.28	+1.3
FT 500	5444.53	+12.79	+0.2	5540.82	4824.13	+1.0
FT All Shr	4541.00	+15.05	+0.3	4596.71	3933.17	+1.3
FT Eur Top	4046.89	+12.48	+0.3	4149.65	3425.66	+1.7
CHINA						
Shenzhen	clsd.	n.a.	n.a.	1936.49	1433.10	n.a.
Shanghai	clsd.	n.a.	n.a.	3171.15	2702.19	n.a.
GERMANY						
DAX	18726.08	+92.97	+0.5	18912.57	14687.41	+2.5
HONG KONG						
HangSeng	17660.02	+237.90	+1.4	19636.22	14961.18	+2.5
INDIA						
Sensex	83079.66	+90.88	+0.1	83079.66	63148.15	+1.4
JAPAN						
Nikkei	36203.22	-378.54	-1.0	42224.02	30526.88	+0.1
MEXICO						
Gen IPC	52274.89	+258.04	+0.5	58658.71	48166.92	+2.6
TAIWAN						
Weighted	clsd.	n.a.	n.a.	24390.03	16001.27	n.a.

MARKET DIARIES

	Volume 00s	Prev day 00s	Adv	Adv vol 00s	Dec	Dec vol 00s	Unch	Issues traded
TSX	5327811	5113209	964	3798584	889	1412475	232	2,085
TSX Venture	1307033	1390999	275	459975	406	465724	386	1,067
NEO	222043	202891	894	94181	755	91907	339	1,988
CSE	527787	498437	106	145130	157	246728	167	430
New York	8179966	7979836	1,697	4897087	1,081	3193680	87	2,865
NYSE MKT	136519	141847	121	48214	152	86926	21	294
NASDAQ	10349872	9560303	2,336	6270681	1,830	3905081	208	4,374

CURRENCIES

Currency	In $Cdn	Currency	In $Cdn	Currency	In $Cdn
Argentina peso	0.0014	Hong Kong dollar	0.1745	Saudi Arabia riyal	0.3622
Australia dollar	0.9181	India rupee	0.0162	Singapore dollar	1.0488
Bahamas dollar	1.3597	Japan yen	0.0096	South Africa rand	0.0771
Brazil real	0.2477	S. Korea won	0.0010	Sweden krona	0.1334
Chile peso	0.0015	Kuwait dinar	4.4571	Switzerland franc	1.6058
Chinese yuan	0.1917	Mexico peso	0.0711	Taiwan dollar	0.0426
Czech koruna	0.0602	Norway krone	0.1282	Thailand baht	0.0408
Denmark krone	0.2026	Pakistan rupee	0.0049	Ukraine hryvna	0.0328
Dominican peso	0.0227	Philippine peso	0.0244	U.A.E. dirham	0.3702
Egypt pound	0.0281	Poland zloty	0.3536	U.K. pound	1.7890
Euro	1.5115	Russia rouble	0.0149	U.S. dollar	1.3597

CANADIAN DOLLAR

US73.55¢
-US0.02¢

TSX

MOST ACTIVE

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
Cdn Natural Res	400225	44.68	+0.75
Cenovus Energy	140954	22.72	+0.36
Bank of NS	108861	71.49	-0.04
Suncor Energy	94733	50.66	+0.74
TD Bank	84399	85.51	+0.02
Power Corp SV	74255	42.51	+0.16
BCE	53759	46.95	+0.24
TC Energy Corp	53561	63.07	-0.48
Pembina Ppln	52117	55.29	-0.03
Manulife Finl	51516	38.43	-0.01

TOP % GAINERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
BP EWCdRE2xDBul	14	19.88	+14.9
Telesat	50	15.30	+9.3
Patriot Battery	2024	3.82	+8.5
Canlan Ice	11	4.10	+7.9
Mogo Inc	287	1.65	+7.8
Stingray Grp B	9	7.83	+6.5
Bragg Gaming Gr	217	7.10	+6.4
Softchoice	81	18.86	+6.2
Coveo Solutions	1932	6.35	+6.0
Canfor	4189	16.69	+5.6

TOP % LOSERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
Crown Cap Ptnrs	7	1.00	-27.5
G2 Goldfields I	5487	1.75	-10.3
Serabi Gold	717	1.59	-9.1
Tidewater Renew	292	2.13	-8.6
Probe Gold Inc	2340	1.76	-7.9
ADF Group SV	1901	11.60	-7.6
Solitario Resou	328	1.02	-7.3
iFabric	286	1.11	-6.7
Foraco Intl SA	1165	1.98	-6.6
Avant Brands In	97	1.09	-6.0

NASDAQ

TOP % GAINERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
Galmed Phrmctcl	114034	15.10	+290.2
Smith Micro	86876	1.14	+118.0
IO Biotech	5161	1.19	+53.5
Children's Plce	14291	17.40	+42.5
Neonode	6621	11.92	+35.1
XCHG A	371	11.10	+34.4
Datasea	27748	2.94	+30.7
TOYO Co	168	3.50	+29.6
REE Automotive	2688	5.57	+28.3
Laser Photonics	1965	7.74	+27.9

TOP % LOSERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
Odyssey Marine	57061	0.50	-89.4
Swvl Holdings C	1545	3.05	-43.6
NuCana	4350	3.70	-41.9
Veea Inc	821	5.30	-41.1
Primega Grp Hld	4809	11.65	-36.3
ViVoPower Intl	28982	1.25	-34.6
Knightscope A	687	5.22	-32.0
Oblong Inc	1342	3.77	-29.4
Netcapital	2202	2.06	-28.5
SMX (Sec Matter	936	3.76	-26.3

NYSE

TOP % GAINERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
Compass Mnrls	7615	11.15	+21.1
Gannett Co Inc	9770	5.47	+18.7
Azul ADS	10965	3.53	+15.4
Finance of Amer	80	12.64	+14.5
SelectQuote	8283	2.07	+13.1
BRC Inc	5355	3.67	+12.6
Teladoc Health	23636	9.11	+11.6
agilon hlth	16472	3.64	+11.0
Spire Global In	985	10.34	+10.8
Torrid Hldgs	4247	4.38	+10.6

TOP % LOSERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
Deckers Outdoor	3470	155.10	-83.5
Vince Hldg	174	2.07	-11.6
Team	95	14.53	-9.8
Pinstripes Hold	48	1.15	-9.4
Surf Air Mobili	78	1.23	-8.9
KORE Group Hold	12	2.06	-8.0
Endava ADS	2025	29.40	-8.0
VirnetX	46	6.90	-6.9
NuScale Power C	4666	9.09	-6.1
Hippo Holdings	502	18.13	-5.7

TSX VENTURE

TOP % GAINERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
DAVIDsTEA	2382	0.33	+88.6
LiberoCop&Gld	6183	0.345	+21.1
Desert Mountain	588	0.44	+18.9
CANPR Technolog	166	0.52	+15.6
Ptnrs Val Ip un	59	109.99	+14.6
Kingsmen Resour	150	0.25	+13.6
Banxa Holdings	21	0.345	+11.3
Blue Moon Metal	1794	0.26	+10.6
Greenheart Gld	206	0.52	+10.6
Cordoba Mnrls	43	0.42	+10.5

TOP % LOSERS

	Vol 00s	Cls	Ch
Eastwood Bio-Me	30	0.405	-47.4
AIP Realty Trus	50	u0.35	-27.1
RIWI	5	0.54	-22.9
Inventronics	10	0.63	-20.3
Bedford Metals	7318	0.61	-19.7
Taranis Res	50	0.26	-17.5
Moon River Moly	745	0.50	-15.3
Midnight Sun	4635	0.335	-15.2
AI Art Intell V	595	0.45	-15.1
Right Season In	64	0.90	-14.3

CALGARY 100

Calgary-based companies trading on the TSX:

OIL AND GAS		
Advantage	9.17	+0.16
ARC Resources	23.39	+0.18
Athabasca	5.41	+0.13
Baytex Energy	4.26	+0.07
Birchcliff	5.65	+0.11
Bonterra Energy	3.77	-0.03
Canacol Energy	3.30	-0.06
Cardinal Energy	6.45	+0.01
Cdn Natural	44.68	+0.75
Cenovus	22.72	+0.36
Crew Energy	6.83	+0.09
Gear Energy	0.62	+0.02
Gibson Energy	22.26	-0.15
Gran Tierra	8.52	+0.20
Imperial Oil	91.48	+0.43
Kelt Exploration	6.17	+0.19
MEG Energy	24.91	+0.27
NuVista Energy	11.79	+0.23
Obsidian Energy	7.98	+0.16
Paramount	25.55	+0.34
Parex	12.27	+0.08
Peyto Explor.	14.79	+0.25
Pine Cliff Energy	0.95	+0.01
Questerre	0.22	-0.02
Suncor Energy	50.66	+0.74
Surge	6.20	+0.15
Tamarack Valley Energy	3.99	+0.12
Touchstone Exploration	0.61	unch.
Tourmaline	59.60	+0.49
Valeura Energy	4.50	unch.
Vermilion	13.01	+0.25
Whitecap	10.32	+0.21
Yangarra Resources	1.04	-0.01
INDUSTRIALS		
AltaGas	35.31	unch.
ATCO	46.31	-0.10
Akita Drilling	1.35	-0.01
Alaris Equity Partners	17.04	+0.11
Big Rock Brewery	1.15	unch.
Black Diamond Group	9.80	-0.16
Boardwalk REIT	89.94	-0.68
Calfrac Well	3.90	+0.02
Cdn Pacific	117.79	-0.82
Cdn Utilities	35.66	-0.23
CES Energy Solutions	7.33	+0.02
Comp Model	11.84	+0.22
DIRTT Enviro	0.71	+0.01
Enbridge	55.51	-0.45
Enerflex	7.61	+0.24
Ensign Energy	2.65	+0.06
Freehold Rylties	13.99	+0.28
Gamehost	10.55	-0.01
Genesis Land Devel	3.84	-0.06
Gibson Energy	22.26	-0.15
High Arctic Energy Svcs	1.17	+0.01
Keyera	41.13	-0.01
Mainstreet Eqty	194.20	+0.30
Maxim Power Corp.	3.80	-0.08
Mullen Group	14.22	-0.01
NXT Energy Solutions	0.25	unch.
Olympia Financial Grp	104.00	+0.62
Oncolytics Biotech	1.30	+0.02
Parkland Corp.	35.13	+0.62
Pason Systems	13.33	+0.11
Pembina Pipeline	55.29	-0.03
PHX Energy Services	9.40	+0.15
PrairieSky Royalty	27.52	+0.72
Precision Drilling	89.87	+2.18
Pulse Seismic	2.52	+0.11
Reserlogix Corp.	0.065	unch.
Secure Energy	11.95	+0.18
STEP Energy Services	3.80	+0.05
TC Energy Corp.	63.07	-0.48
Tidewater Midstream	0.30	+0.03
Total Energy	9.26	+0.13
TransAlta	12.84	+0.33
Trican	4.75	+0.14
Western Energy Svcs	2.85	-0.01
Willow Biosciences	0.095	unch.

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OIL BENCHMARKS

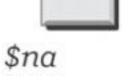
BRENT 12-MONTH AVERAGE FUTURES/BBL

US$73.70
+1.31%

WTI 12-MONTH AVERAGE FUTURES/BBL

US$71.19
+1.57%

WESTERN CANADA SELECT/BBL

$na
0.00%

DIFFERENTIAL (WTI-WCS)/BBL

$na
0.00%

CANADIAN LIGHT SWEET OIL/BBL

$na
0.00%

GAS BENCHMARKS

DAILY SPOT HENRY HUB/MMBTU

US$2.32
-2.06%

DAILY SPOT AECO/MMBTU

CA$0.46
+12.20%

PLAYERS STRIKE POSSIBLE: RODRI

Manchester City midfielder Rodri says top soccer players are close to going on strike because of the number of games they are having to play. The Spain international said players are concerned about the way the game is headed as more games are added to the calendar in competitions like the Champions League, which started Tuesday. Rodri, pictured, was asked if players might start refusing to play because of the

calendar. "I think we are close to that," he said, adding that players can be expected to "perform at the highest level" if they play 40 to 50 games. Julian Alvarez, who played for City the past two seasons before moving to Atletico Madrid, was picked in 83 match-day squads last season. Another City player, Phil Foden, played in 72. "In my humble opinion, I think it is too much," Rodri said. *The Associated Press*

Anthony Mantha could be the linemate who can finally get Jonathan Huberdeau to start producing offence at the level the Flames expected when they signed him to a US$84-million contract, says Danny Austin. The two players work with the same Montreal-based skill and skating coach in the off-season. DARREN MAKOWICHUK

MORE QUESTIONS AS FLAMES GET READY FOR CAMP

Plenty of intrigue surrounding what rebuilt roster will look like

DANNY AUSTIN

Training camp for the Calgary Flames is nearly upon us.

While nobody is predicting that the Flames are going to be in the mix for a Stanley Cup this year, there's still plenty of intrigue around the team and how the roster is going to shake out.

Will there be surprises on Day 1 of the regular season?

Will a crafty veteran or a rising young gun earn more playing time than we might be expecting?

Today, here are more questions for players we're expecting to see at Flames training camp:

DRYDEN HUNT

Q How important is his leadership for the young guys?

A Last year, Hunt split his time between the Flames and the Wranglers, playing in 28 NHL games and recording three goals and five assists. He's a fourth-line option this season, to be sure, and his ability to slot in on the penalty kill should see him get opportunities. Hunt's value goes beyond what he does on the ice, though. You'll regularly hear young prospects talk about the help and guidance Hunt is willing to provide them, and as the organization has got younger during the past year or so, it needs guys like Hunt to provide that invaluable leadership to guys trying to find their way as pros.

NAZEM KADRI

Q Is he happy being the best player on a bad team?

A Nazem Kadri was everything the Flames could have asked him to be last season. On a team that was trading away veterans seemingly every week, Kadri kept his head down and took on the responsibility of helping young Connor Zary and Martin Pospisil find their feet in the NHL. He scored 29 goals and added 46 assists, and his 75 points were the most of any player on the Flames' roster. It was a wildly impressive season, but it's also led to questions about whether he might want out. Kadri hasn't said anything publicly that suggests he does, but a centre putting up those sorts of numbers? What contender wouldn't want to add that? He's 33 years old and provides invaluable leadership for the Flames, but if the right offer came in, the Flames would have to consider moving him.

RORY KERINS

Q Can he follow Connor Zary's lead as a guy who needed to improve his skating to take advantage of his skill set?

A Drafted in the sixth round in 2020, Kerins proved last season that he could contribute at the AHL level. He scored 16 goals and added 16 assists in 54 games, after all, so he's shown he's adapting to the speed of the pro game. He's still only 22 years old, so there's time for him to develop, and the priority there is probably his skating.

JUSTIN KIRKLAND

Q Is he the dark horse to win a job at centre?

A The only sure things at centre for the Flames heading into the season are Kadri, Backlund and Kevin Rooney. There's speculation about Martin Pospisil getting a look there, and Yegor Sharangovich and Connor Zary are options, too. But don't forget about Kirkland. Back for a second go-round with the organization, Kirkland was one of the AHL's top faceoff men last season and is a penalty killer you can trust. We'll be paying attention to him at training camp, where a strong showing could put him right in the mix.

ADAM KLAPKA

Q Is this the year he breaks through?

A Since signing as a relatively unknown free agent in 2022, Klapka has come a long way. He was a project in his first season with the Wranglers, but last year emerged as an offensive force and even got called up for six games with the Flames, scoring his first NHL goal in their final regular season game. At six-foot-eight and weighing in at 235 pounds, there's no doubt Klapka will always be one of the biggest guys on the ice and he's done a nice job adding tools to his game since turning pro.

Is Nazem Kadri content with being the best player on a rebuilding team or will he be another veteran talent who gets shipped out before the trade deadline, muses Danny Austin. AZIN GHAFFARI FILES

ANDREI KUZMENKO

Q Can he show that he does more than just score goals?

A There's no question Kuzmenko can put the puck in the back of the net. In 2022-23 with the Vancouver Canucks, he potted 39 goals. He was also sixth in goals scored for the Flames last season and didn't even play his first game with the team until February. Acquired as part of the deal that sent Elias Lindholm to Vancouver, the knock on Kuzmenko has always been the other parts of his game, particularly in his own end. You'd feel comfortable on Kuzmenko leading the Flames in goals this season, but nobody would be surprised if he's flipped to a contender at the trade deadline, either.

RYAN LOMBERG

Q Is he still the same player Flames fans fell in love with five years ago?

A The answer is almost certainly yes. It's not like Lomberg disappeared since leaving the Flames in 2019. He won a Stanley Cup with the Florida Panthers last year and was a fan favourite. Lomberg plays at a million miles a minute and is an expert at getting under opponents' skin, so he'll bring a level of excitement to the rink every night and could be a mentor to a guy like Martin Pospisil when it comes to playing with edge but not stepping too far over the line.

ANTHONY MANTHA

Q Can he bring out the best in Jonathan Huberdeau?

A From the moment he signed a one-year deal worth US$3.5 million with the Flames on the first day of free agency, this was the question everyone was asking. The two work with the same Montreal-based skill and skating coach in the off-season, and Conroy acknowledged that pairing Mantha's shot with Huberdeau's passing skills was intriguing. At six-foot-five and weighing in at 234 pounds, Mantha brings a lot more to the ice than just slick finishing, but he might be part of the solution for a Flames team that needs more out of Huberdeau.

SAM MORTON

Q At his age, is he a prospect who can realistically push for a job sooner rather than later?

A After completing his NCAA career with Minnesota State-Mankato in March, Morton signed with the Flames and wasted no time making his mark with the Wranglers in the AHL. He scored five goals and added two assists in 13 games and was one of the best players on the ice at last weekend's Young Stars tournament, recording two goals and an assist in two games. At 25 years old, you'd ideally like to see him pushing for a gig with the Flames pretty quickly. There's no reason to doubt that he can.

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Tiger-Cats defence sees immediate results with unorthodox Jones

Innovative strategist has a reputation for sowing confusion among offences

DAN RALPH

It hasn't taken Chris Jones long to make an impact with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats' defence.

The unit has forced 10 turnovers in three games under Jones, Hamilton's senior defensive assistant. Six (three interceptions, two fumble recoveries, downs) came last Saturday in the 37-21 win over the Ottawa Redblacks.

"We've been emphasizing getting the ball, making big plays and doing our thing," said Hamilton defensive end Nick Usher, who had a fumble recovery and two forced fumbles versus Ottawa. "Chris Jones has been (giving) us opportunities to make plays and get the ball."

Jones took over Hamilton's defence when defensive co-ordinator Mark Washington was fired following a 47-22 loss to the Edmonton Elks on Aug. 17. The Ticats are the sixth different CFL team the well-travelled Jones has been associated with.

Jones has enjoyed much success in Canada. He's a four-time Grey Cup champion and in 2018 was the CFL's coach of the year as the Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach/general manager.

Jones began the season as Edmonton's head coach/GM but was fired July 15 following its 0-5 start. The Elks surrendered an 18-point lead in their season-opening 29-21 loss to Saskatchewan, then dropped each of the next four games by a field goal.

Jones, a 56-year-old Tennessee native, has a well-earned reputation as a defensive guru and innovative coach. He often thinks outside the box with his schemes and packages, many times doing the unexpected to either confuse an offence or create a mismatch on the field.

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats defence has forced 10 turnovers in three games since Chris Jones joined the staff as senior defensive assistant. Jones was fired by the Elks after an 0-5 start. *THE CANADIAN PRESS FILES*

That includes dropping a defensive end into coverage to either create a different look or bring a linebacker or defensive back from elsewhere on the field to create added pressure on the quarterback.

"I do a little bit of everything," Usher said. "Position change now but it's all good. I'm definitely enjoying it just learning a new defence and now to see the field in a different light. I'm definitely thankful to Chris Jones for giving me the opportunity to do that."

A Jones-led defence might surrender yards, but points are often harder to come by because offences must sustain drives in order to score. And the slightest hesitation created by a unique scheme or look can result in a drive-ending sack, incompletion or turnover.

Hamilton has won the turnover battle in each of its last three games. And although Zach Collaros's late 10-yard TD pass to Kenny Lawler earned Winnipeg a 26-23 home win Aug. 23, the Ticats had three interceptions in the contest.

Hamilton (4-9) has since earned important wins over Toronto (31-28 on Sept. 2) and Ottawa (8-4-1) to remain in the East Division playoff hunt. The Ticats visit the Argos (7-6) on Friday night.

Usher said Jones's approach is an easy one for players to understand.

"I like his philosophy, we're going to make everything simple and fast," Usher said. "If everything is simple, we're going to play fast."

Veteran quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell said practising against Jones's defence has benefited Hamilton's offence.

"In my career, I've never done so much competitive ones versus ones," Mitchell said. "It's always been carded looks, 'Here's what they're going to run, here's what we expect.'

"You go out to practice and you're 12 of 13 (passing) and everything that's been drawn up works and you're telling the defence how to run the other team's defence, how to run their coverages and, 'Hey we want you to drive this.' It gives you almost a false sense of security sometimes." That's certainly not the case in Hamilton these days.

"Scott (Hamilton head coach/offensive co-ordinator Scott Milanovich) gets on the headset and says, 'OK, this is against our defence, it's competitive so it might not be the same read (but) find the completion,'" Mitchell said. "That's how it is 90 per cent of the time when you're in a game.

"If you see us get the exact look we want, it's going to be a touchdown, it's going to be a big play. (But) 90 per cent of the time you don't get the look you're expecting. You go out there and you're trying to attack a defence, but you've really got to attack a problem, see what you see, trust your eyes make a throw and they've got to make a catch."

Mitchell, 34, has locked horns with Jones many times over the years. But he appreciates being on the same sideline now as the veteran coach.

"We're getting a lot of turnovers on defence right now, we're making it tough on quarterbacks," he said. "I have to go against him every day in practice and I can tell you this, it's fun being on this side of it now."

The Canadian Press

The Bruins' Jeremy Swayman is expected to take over the team's No. 1 goaltending position this year after Linus Ullmark was traded to Ottawa, but the 26-year-old Swayman has yet to sign a new contract with the team. He had a .916 save percentage last season. *THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE*

NHL ROUNDUP

Swayman 'in a good mindset' about signing deal with Bruins

Boston traded Ullmark to the Senators, but new starter doesn't have a contract

STEPHEN WHYNO

Sidney Crosby and Leon Draisaitl have their contract extensions, Paul Maurice and the Florida Panthers have the Stanley Cup and a brief but busy summer of moving and shaking is over.

Now, back to hockey.

Less than 90 days since the Panthers beat the Edmonton Oilers in Game 7 of a thrilling final, training camps open around the league this week with plenty of questions before the puck drops next month on another season.

Boston goaltender Jeremy Swayman is the most prominent player left unsigned, camp in Columbus goes on in sorrow after the tragic death of Johnny Gaudreau and players and staff in Utah get a fresh start after the Coyotes relocated from Arizona to Salt Lake City. Colorado captain Gabriel Landeskog may be back, Washington winger T.J. Oshie may be gone and it's anyone's guess who will lift the Cup in June.

SWAY DAY?

The Bruins traded 2023 Vezina Trophy-winning goalie Linus Ullmark to Ottawa, content to give the starting job to Swayman. One problem? He's a restricted free agent without a contract for the season.

"Those things just kind of sort themselves out as they do," said teammate Brandon Carlo, who pointed to his own late arrival and that of fellow defenceman Charlie McAvoy in recent years as reasons not to be worried. "We have a lot of faith within our organization, in our management, to get the right deal done."

Swayman, who turns 26 in late November, ranked fifth in the NHL with a .916 save percentage and eighth with a 2.53 goals-against average last season. He was being paid a team-friendly US$3.475 million on a one-year contract and will get a raise — but how much and for how long?

"It's obviously a balance of going back and forth," Carlo said. "But I've had some conversations with Sway. He seems pretty encouraged and in a good mindset with it all, so as long as he's feeling OK mentally, that's all we really care about."

Among the other unsigned players are Detroit's Moritz Seider two years removed from being rookie of the year, Dallas defenceman Thomas Harley and New Jersey forward Dawson Mercer. The Red Wings signed Lucas Raymond to a $64 million, eight-year contract Monday.

MOURNING GAUDREAU

The Blue Jackets are getting back on the ice mere weeks after Johnny Gaudreau and younger brother Matthew died when they were struck by a driver of an SUV while riding bicycles on the eve of their sister's wedding. A candlelight vigil was held outside the arena in Columbus, players and team employees attended the tearful funeral and playing hockey was the furthest thing from anyone's mind.

Captain Boone Jenner and general manager Don Waddell hope the rink will serve as a refuge of sorts.

"We both agreed the quicker we can get guys back in the room together, the better it would be for everybody," Waddell said. "We all mourn and heal differently, but I think as a team, being together like that is going to be critical for them to get moving forward."

This is the team's second camp in recent years that follows the off-season death of a player. Goaltender Matiss Kivlenieks died in July 2021 of chest trauma from an errant fireworks mortar blast at the wedding of an assistant coach's daughter.

NEW IN UTAH

This will be the 45th training camp for the organization that was once the original Winnipeg Jets, then the Phoenix Coyotes and until earlier this year the Arizona Coyotes. It's the first and only season as the Utah Hockey Club after a move from the desert to Salt Lake City.

Ryan and Ashley Smith's Smith Entertainment Group now owns the team, keeping the same hockey operations staff, coaches, players and prospects, but starting over with a clean slate in the record books like an expansion franchise.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play with a new organization," said Josh Doan, who's now with Utah after making his NHL debut with the team dad Shane captained for much of his career. "But to do it with all the guys you've been with and the people that you're close with already is something that's fun to do."

Utah, which is expected to get a permanent name and logo after the season, plays its first game Oct. 8 against Chicago at the downtown Delta Center, the home of the NBA's Jazz.

COMING AND GOING

Landeskog's next game will be his first in the NHL since lifting the Stanley Cup over his head when the Avalanche defeated the Lightning in Game 6 of the final in 2022. A nagging right knee injury and subsequent cartilage replacement surgery to attempt to fix the problem have cost the Swedish forward the past two seasons.

"Seeing him around the rink, obviously being more active on the ice, seeing the progressions he's made from when we were here for playoffs previously, it's awesome to see," forward Logan O'Connor said.

The Associated Press

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	63	.580	—
Baltimore	84	67	.556	3.5
Boston	75	76	.497	12.5
Tampa Bay	74	77	.490	13.5
Toronto	72	78	.480	15

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	87	65	.572	—
Kansas City	82	69	.543	4.5
Minnesota	80	71	.530	6.5
Detroit	78	73	.517	8.5
Chicago	36	115	.238	50.5

West	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	81	69	.540	—
Seattle	77	73	.513	4
Texas	71	79	.473	10
Oakland	65	86	.430	16.5
Los Angeles	60	90	.400	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	90	60	.600	—
New York	83	68	.550	7.5
Atlanta	81	70	.536	9.5
Washington	68	83	.450	22.5
Miami	56	95	.371	34.5

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	87	63	.580	—
Chicago	77	73	.513	10
St. Louis	76	75	.503	11.5
Cincinnati	74	78	.487	14
Pittsburgh	71	80	.470	16.5

West	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	89	62	.589	—
San Diego	86	65	.570	3
Arizona	83	67	.553	5.5
San Francisco	73	78	.483	16
Colorado	58	93	.384	31

CFL

East	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
x-Montreal	13	10	2	1	351	288	21
Ottawa	13	8	4	1	335	347	17
Toronto	13	7	6	0	364	342	14
Hamilton	13	4	9	0	347	409	8

West	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
Winnipeg	13	7	6	0	295	274	14
British Columbia	14	7	7	0	352	350	14
Saskatchewan	13	5	7	1	333	330	11
Edmonton	13	5	8	0	385	342	10
Calgary	13	4	8	1	301	381	9

x—clinched playoff berth; Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for a tie.

Week 15

Byes: Edmonton, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg

Saturday's results

Hamilton 37 Ottawa 21
Montreal 19 Calgary 19 (OT)

Friday's result

Toronto 33 British Columbia 17

Week 16

Bye: British Columbia

Friday's games

Hamilton at Toronto, 5 p.m.
Saskatchewan at Calgary, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Montreal at Ottawa, 1 p.m.
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 5 p.m.

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
Miami	1	1	0	.500	30	48
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	43	49
New England	1	1	0	.500	36	33
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Houston	2	0	0	1.000	48	40
Indpolis	0	2	0	.000	37	45
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	2	0	.000	34	48

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	31	16
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	35	46
Baltimore	0	2	0	.000	43	53
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	53	45
L.A. Chargers	2	0	0	1.000	48	13
Las Vegas	1	1	0	.500	36	45
Denver	0	2	0	.000	26	39

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	52	61
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	55	51
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	24	49
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	91	29
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	57	36
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	32	39
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	13	73

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	51	23
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	37	36
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	40
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	45	44
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	49	40
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	69	44
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	49	42
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	30	67

BRIEFS

Canada, U.S. hockey officials ink deal on prospects series

The Canadian Hockey League is looking to capitalize on the sport's cross-border rivalry by having its top draft-eligible prospects face USA Hockey's National Development team in an annual two-game series starting in November.

Unveiled on Tuesday by the CHL, the series is being billed as the CHL-USA Prospects Challenge with this year's games played in two Ontario cities — London and Oshawa — on Nov. 26-27.

The CHL reached a three-year deal to host the series, with sites rotating among the group's three members — the Ontario, Quebec Maritime, and Western hockey leagues.

Aside from the world junior championships, the series will feature many of both nations' top 17- and 18-year-olds in head-to-head competition, something CHL president Dan MacKenzie noted has been previously lacking for two countries who produce the majority of NHL talent.

"We think we've got the recipe for something really special here," MacKenzie said.

A majority of the CHL's roster will be selected by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau.

The Michigan-based NTDP, established by USA Hockey in 1996, is a development program for America's top juniors, with the team spending its season competing in the USHL, while rounding out its schedule playing in international tournaments and against U.S. colleges. NTDP alumni include NHL No. 1 draft picks such as Patrick Kane, Auston Matthews and Jack Hughes.

For the CHL, the series replaces its annual top-prospects game, which was established in 1992 and ran through last season.

The Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers are extending their operating agreement with Broward County for five more years, ensuring the team remains in the market through 2033 and likely well beyond.

County commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved the revised terms, which include the Panthers giving US$51.5 million to eliminate remaining debt on the county-owned arena where the team plays. The current deal runs through 2028.

The Panthers, including playoff games, exceeded one million in attendance last season for the first time in team history.

Justin Fields will likely make his third straight start at quarterback when the Pittsburgh Steelers host the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday.

Russell Wilson continues to rehab from a calf injury he aggravated a few days ahead of the season opener earlier this month.

Fields has played mistake-free while helping guide the Steelers to their first 2-0 start since 2020.

Cristiano Ronaldo's Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr is looking for a new coach after firing Luis Castro on Tuesday in the second managerial change since the Portugal star's arrival.

*The Associated Press**